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Trilateral Cooperation Commission Meeting Opens

BK2308145593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] The meeting of the tripartite commission of Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and Pakistan opened in Islamabad today. The meeting aims at evolving strategy to further enhance cooperation in various fields. Inaugurating the meeting, the caretaker federal minister for communication and railways, Mr. Ahmad Farooq, said frequent contacts between the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] countries will bring about greater solidarity and cooperation for establishing a formidable economic bloc. He said the disintegration of dominating power has paved the way for realizing age-old dream of greater Muslim solidarity. The federal minister underlined the need for integrated and comprehensive program to promote and strengthen cooperation among the three countries in different sectors, including road construction, telecommunication, trade, education and culture.

The leader of the Turkmenistan delegation, Mr. (Rakhmanov Sekuli Rakhmanovic), and leader of the Afghan delegation Dr. Engineer (Wali Mohammad Rasouli), in their speeches hoped that the commission's deliberation will help produce the context for agreements to be signed in the next meeting of the commission. The leader of the Afghan delegation also expressed confidence that the countries of the region, particularly the neighbors, will assist Afghanistan in its reconstruction.

Later, three sub-groups were formed to finalize reports and recommendations on various subjects.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni Warns PLO Crisis Jeopardizing Peace Talks

NC2508100693 Paris AFP in English 0848 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Aug 25 (AFP)—The top leader in the occupied territories sounded a defiant warning Wednesday [25 August] that the Palestinians will break off peace talks rather than be forced into concessions because of the PLO crisis.

"If there is an idea that by financial pressure we will go to the negotiating table weakened, no," Faysal al-Husayni told AFP in an interview at the East Jerusalem headquarters of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks.

"Maybe our mechanism of thinking is different from the Western world, more pressure on us will mean less flexibility," warned al- Husayni, chief of the delegation.

"Such pressure...will stop the whole peace process. I mean if the Israelis are working on such a way...this is a very good way to stop it," said al-Husayni. He goes to Tunis on Thursday to meet chairman Yasir 'Arafat on the internal divisions and cash crisis rocking the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The PLO executive committee or ruling body was expected to meet in Tunis on Thursday following last week's resignations of two leading members and a call for Arafat to stand down.

Al-Husayni admitted the financial squeeze brought about by a drastic reduction in funding from Gulf states threatened Palestinian institutions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and called for international aid.

"We are urging the world to help cover our costs. The world must create an urgent budget for us to go on covering our institutions till the moment that authority will be transferred to us and we will start collecting our own taxes and customs."

But he remained defiant: "If we will find ourselves in a position that we will be under pressure, forced to accept something that we don't want, simply we will leave this responsibility to other forces within the Palestinian people."

Al-Husayni said he meant those opposed to the process, such as the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas.

"We have taken this responsibility to reach a comprehensive peace, the Israeli withdrawal, and building a Palestinian state.

"But the moment...I will find that the peace process will not bring me these things so I will leave this responsibility to those who believe that there is another option."

Hamas is fighting for the destruction of Israel.

"The aim is not the peace process; the aim is a comprehensive peace," al-Husayni said.

An 11th round of bilateral discussions with Israel is due to start in Washington on August 31.

"I don't know how the Israelis are being so optimistic about the next round, maybe they have something new to propose to us," al- Husayni said.

He called on Israel to recognise the West Bank and Gaza Strip as occupied territories not disputed land if it wants to sign a declaration of principles for the peace talks.

"We want Israel to start talking about permanent status instead of dealing only with a temporary solution," he added.

To Meet With 'Arafat 26 Aug

NC2508083293 Paris AFP in English 0654 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Aug 25 (AFP)—Faysal al-Husayni, the leading Palestinian in the occupied territories, said he will go to Tunis on Thursday [26 August] to meet PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on the crisis rocking the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"I expect to see Arafat tomorrow," said al-Husayni, the chief of the Palestinian delegation t[] the Middle East peace talks.

The PLO is reeling from grave financial problems and the resignations of two leading figures last week from the PLO's ruling body.

"That's why I'm travelling tomorrow to Tunis," al-Husayni told AFP on Wednesday in the East Jerusalem headquarters of the peace delegation. "It's searching for a way to solve the problems."

The PLO executive committee is also set to meet in Tunis on Thursday at the call of 'Arafat following the resignations.

Al-Husayni said he would travel alone for talks with 'Arafat, which would centre on the financial crisis and the peace process. An 11th round of bilateral discussions with Israel is due to start in Washington on August 31.

'Arafat Adviser Interviewed on Resignations, Crisis

JN2408161493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis by Sa'id Mu'addi in the studio; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, now in Tunis, good evening.

[Abu-Sharif] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] Is the PLO leadership facing a real confidence crisis? Also, it has been said that the PLO has declared a financial and political bankruptcy.

[Abu-Sharif] This is the battle of the last five minutes before the decisive moment, and this battle cannot shake the PLO's confidence. President Yasir 'Arafat enjoys the full confidence of the Palestinian people and the PLO. He is leading the political battle toward achieving our goals in establishing a peace that is based on the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

[Mu'addi] The PLO Executive Committee members who have resigned said their decision was in protest against the leadership's approach in dealing with the peace talks. What do you say?

[Abu-Sharif] I have not yet seen the text of the resignation letters. But poet Mahmud Darwish and Shafiq al-Hut are very close friends of mine. As you know, Palestinian democracy allows everyone to freely express his views, whether political or organizational. Poet Mahmud Darwish and Shafiq al-Hut were elected by the Palestine National Council [PNC] on the basis of a political program approved by the overwhelming majority of PNC members. Each Executive Committee member has the right to express his own views as he wishes, either by stating his political position in public or by exercising his right to withdraw from this official post. The Executive Committee will meet in 48 hours in Tunis to discuss all these matters. But I wish to point out that all these smear campaigns being launched here and there will not weaken the PLO. President Yasir 'Arafat is now holding talks with his brother His Majesty King Husayn in order to coordinate stands between the fraternal Jordan and the PLO. This, undoubtedly, is a basic and an important thing to do before the 27 August meeting of the Arab parties involved in the peace process to decide a joint position on the forthcoming round of talks. What is important here is that the Arab parties are still adhering to the peace process and that the ball is now in the Israeli Government's court. The Israeli Government must respond favorably to the international resolutions in order to help the peace process move forward.

[Mu'addi] The PLO leadership has been criticized for its mismanagement of financial affairs, which reflected badly on the political level. What do you think?

[Abu-Sharif] The financial crisis is due to the fact that the Gulf states have stopped their financial aid to the PLO. We will not be weakened by such crises. We are prepared to tighten the belt in order to continue our struggle to achieve a peace that is based on the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

[Mu'addi] Do you think that in the current circumstances, the methods and the future of the leadership, as well as the decisionmaking process, should be reconsidered?

[Abu-Sharif] The Palestinian leadership has clear democratic traditions, and these traditions, I believe, are deep-rooted and strong. Palestinian democracy, as every one knows, sometimes goes beyond the necessary limits, either by stating positions in public or by voicing opinions inside the institutions. Therefore, every member has the right to express his own views and express his organizational opinion, including exercising the right to resign.

[Mu'addi] Bassam Abu-Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, thank you very much.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you.

'Ashrawi on Potential of Gaza-Jericho Option

TA2408190293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the delegation to the peace talks, by Gil Sadan in Ramallah on 24 August—recorded, in English with Hebrew subtitles; processed from the English]

[Text] ['Ashrawi] I think first of all there has to be a serious assessment of these problems. There has to be a work plan and concrete steps to trim down the fat, to reestablish these structural institutions, in a way that would allow for decision making to proceed more

smoothly, and at the same time to counter at least the deprivations caused, or the threat caused by the economic blockade.

[Sadan] Can you confirm the statement of our foreign minister that a package agreement has already been agreed on?

['Ashrawi] I do not think so, frankly speaking. I think that we still have very serious issues to discuss. I do not think that a package agreement is ready. I do not think that any side, or either side, has the full picture yet. I think perhaps you are seeing some of the features of a new course of events and negotiations leading to perhaps amendments of the Madrid framework, leading to a mixed model, leading to Israeli withdrawal let us say from Gaza-Jericho, and the beginning of permanent status and perhaps Palestinian statehood. But in terms of the real substance of negotiations, representation for example of the idea of Gaza-Jericho First, within its whole history of Gaza alone or Gaza First, or Jericho alone or Gaza plus [laughs], and now it has jelled as Gaza-Jericho as part of the permanent status within an overall political agreement and a schedule for withdrawal. [sentence as heard] This might present a possible opening.

[Sadan] So this is exactly what is on the agenda now?

['Ashrawi] Well, as I said, it has been presented as an idea, as a title. We have to work out the substance fully, to understand all the implications, the mechanisms for application. Then it will be presented as a concrete proposal.

Discusses Peace Plan

LD2408202593 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] For the second day running, Israel has continued sending fresh reinforcements of heavy artillery to the region it occupies in south Lebanon, after the Lebanese resistance had launched a second day of attacks against the occupation forces in five days. There have been no reports of casualties in those attacks, which came just a few days before the resumption of the Arab-Israeli talks in Washington.

Our correspondent in occupied Palestine interviewed Hanan 'Ashrawi, member and spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the peace process. In this interview, she dealt with proposals on Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho first, within the framework of a plan to be discussed at the next round of negotiations. She also dealt with the acute economic crisis in the occupied Palestinian territories.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Dr 'Ashrawi, Saudi television is glad to meet at your home in Ramallah. The topic that now seems top priority on the Palestinian agenda is the issue of what has been termed Gaza-Jericho First. What is this issue about, and how will you table it at the next round?

['Ashrawi] Concerning details of Gaza-Jericho First, they are still under study and preparation because so far, we have not presented a complete and detailed plan. However, the main features of that plan are, first of all, disentanglement. That is to say, full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, either directly in favor of the PLO or through handing them over to UN forces who will in turn hand them over to the PLO.

Second, drawing up a timetable for withdrawals from the occupied territories within a comprehensive political agreement, on the understanding that that would form the beginning of a final solution. That would give the Palestinian side equal footing with the other Arab parties.

[Correspondent] Concerning the political blockade and the financial crisis, Mr. Faysal al-Husayni called for the formation of what he called a Palestinian government of national salvation to arrest the deterioration of institutions, is that an official position or merely a personal proposal on the part of Faysal al-Husayni, and what is your view on it?

['Ashrawi] First of all, as Mr. Faysal al-Husayni explained, that is a personal proposal not for the formation of an official government but for an internal organ or body inside the occupied territories in order to achieve economic self-sufficiency or to try to counter economic pressure so as to save institutions from collapse. However, it is clear that this is a very difficult matter. To provide a political point of reference for Palestinian decisionmaking is a demand, and a political one, which is acted upon to coordinate decisionmaking within the occupied territores and with the Palestinian leadership abroad. However, the objective of reaching a government or official body is a very difficult one in the light of successive financial crises because, apart from a few countries, no country in this world could achieve economic self-sufficiency. We are under occupation and, with the blockade imposed by it and the severance of financial sources, we have reached a stage where institutions cannot continue to preserve themselves without direct supply or emergency aid. They are the foundation, the social fabric, and the infrastructure of Palestinian society in facing up to the occupation. [end recording]

PLO's 'Abbas Interviewed on Gaza-Jericho Plan

TA2408181393 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 24 Aug 93 pp 1, 19

[Interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, by Wafa' 'Amr in Amman; date not given]

[Text] ['Amr] We began by demanding a Palestinian state and ended with some kind of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. How did this happen?

['Abbas] I am surprised by this question. We are still demanding the establishment of a Palestinian state, and all our national efforts are directed toward this goal.

Everyone must realize that a solution cannot be achieved in one fell swoop. Hence, we agreed on an interim period leading to a finale.

The Gaza-Jericho concept will not be acceptable unless sufficient guarantees are given that it is a step toward a final solution, not a substitute for it. Namely, this concept must be a clause within an integral agreement about the interim stage, which we call a declration of principles, and not constitute a separate agreement.

['Amr] At a time when many are talking about a collective leadership and democracy in Palestinian decision-making, you are being accused of dominating the settlement process. How true is this?

['Abbas] There is nothing of the sort. I was assigned to head a leadership committee whose task is to follow up the negotiations. I am doing my job within this context and through this committee, which submits its reports to the responsible bodies in the PLO.

We work as an integral team. There is no room for domination here, but there are meticulous and detailed matters that require an open discussion within a specific framework. For example, I do not believe that the Israelis or our Arab brothers discuss negotiating issues in a transitory way that gives the adversary the weapon of knowing our goals in advance, as is happening with regard to the Palestinian question. I am keen on managing our affairs in a meticulous and organized fashion. Perhaps it is for this reason that there is talk about a so-called domination.

['Amr] It has been said in recent days that one of the reasons for the resignation of some members of the Palestinian delegation was your visit to Cairo and inserting modifications, along with Nabil Sha'th, to a U.S. paper that the PLO had earlier decided to reject as the basis for a settlement. What is the story of the Palestinian paper and Egypt's role in it?

['Abbas] The nature of the talks going on between us and Israel dictates that one engage in numerous formulas. Sometimes we present those formulas, other times the Israelis and the Americans present theirs. We always submit written proposals and perceptions in response to any proposals presented to us.

With regard to the resignations, I do not deem it necessary to discuss this issue again after it had been discussed a lot by the Palestinian leadership and public opinion. As for Egypt's role, we are always engaged in consultations and benefit from Egyptian expertise. I can say that what has been rumored about Egypt's pressure is not true. We accept what suits us, but in many periods of sensitive work we think in a loud voice with our brothers in Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon as well as with anyone who is ready to deal with and advise us.

['Amr] There have been increasing reports about your meetings with Israeli officials in Cairo. This has been confirmed by the Hebrew press. Why the denial, and is there anything preventing such meetings?

['Abbas] No meetings have taken place. As far as we are concerned, there is nothing preventing such meetings. What is important is not the meetings but their substance. Ten rounds of negotiating meetings have taken place, but in terms of substance nothing has been achieved. We have declared the PLO's readiness to hold official meetings with Israeli officials. We believe that this is the shortest way to reach a serious understanding.

['Amr] It is being said that you are one of the most enthusiastic adherents to the Gaza-Jericho First option. How will a Palestinian entity be established in these areas, what are the economic foundations on which it will be established, and who will be returned or banned from returning to this entity?

['Abbas] The entire question is premature. I prefer to answer it when the issue is placed on the negotiating table or is raised officially. We have reasonable capabilities to address any issue that might evolve in the peace process even if it is not within our expectations. Under no circumstances will we accept the Gaza-Jericho step as constituting a separate entity. As for economic matters, we must seek the best investment for our capabilities and discuss the establishment of a common market with our Jordanian brothers. We believe that the interim stage imposes on the powers concerned—especially the fraternal Arab states, the United States, Europe, and Japan—an extensive responsibility to aid in the construction of a Palestinian infrastructure.

['Amr] Recently you defended Egypt's position and denied the existence of any Egyptian pressure. Does this reflect a Palestinian dispute between supporters and opponents of Egypt's role?

['Abbas] Objectively, Egypt's role is much larger than having to be viewed in this way. Despite this, I can confirm that there is no difference between us and Egypt on the leadership level concerning coordination.

['Amr] At present you head the higher committee tasked with following up on the talks. What is new in this committee, especially since from the outset you were assigned with following up on the talks?

['Abbas] There are always new things in the follow-up committee. New members are added to it every now and then, and we utilize experts from all fields. This committee is a working group whose best success ingredients, in my view, are perseverance and keeping away from the media uproar.

['Amr] You are a prominent member of the PLO. How do you envision the PLO's future after the Gaza-Jericho First option is realized?

['Abbas] The PLO will remain as long as the Palestinian problem remains. The PLO, which led the struggle stage and is leading the negotiating stage, will continue to

carry it out its mission in accordance with the Palestinian people's will and through its constitutional institutions. The PLO is the temporary identity and entity of the Palestinian people until their entity is epitomized on the homeland's soil.

['Amr] Will Fatah turn into a party if autonomy is implemented? And what will be its relationship with the Fatah outside?

['Abbas] This is also a premature question. Fatah is a living body that interacts with all changes in the situation of the Palestinian people and cause, without abandoning its essence as a movement defending the rights of the Palestinian people in all the stages of their struggle.

['Amr] What are the most important stages that the PLO has passed through since Madrid? And how did the Soviet Union's collapse and later the Gulf war affect those stages?

['Abbas] The Madrid period, whether in the preparatory or participatory stage, was one of the most important periods in the life of the Palestinian people. If we were to try and divide and title the political stages since Madrid, I would mention the following:

First: The stage of exploring the outlets leading to the road. This required a great many contacts and numerous rounds of talks.

Second: The stage of engaging in negotiations at the negotiating table in Washington and through unofficial committees.

Third: The stage of receiving the U.S. papers and dealing with them, namely, studying the papers and giving the appropriate response.

Fourth: The stage of working to make substantive issues the basis for dialogue, to consolidate the foundations of our position, and to ensure the equivalence of the tracks as much as possible. It is worth noting that in some instances we deal with these titles simultaneously.

As for the Gulf war and the changes that occurred in the international situation and their effects, undoubtedly they dealt great harm to our Palestinian and Arab power. The PLO does not bury its head in the sand. We suffered great damage as a people, a cause, and an institution, but the important thing is to find ways to adjust to the new situation after all these changes in order to defend the Palestinian people and cause. This is what has governed our decisions since Madrid and which leads us to call persistently for restoring the Arab rank's unity in order to protect all Arab security in the wake of those stormy changes.

['Amr] Recently, grumbling by many Palestinians as well as by PLO factions has grown and criticism of the PLO has increased in an unprecedented manner. Do you think the reason for this is the financial crisis being experienced by the Palestinian people, a wrong Palestinian strategy, or as some are saying a campaign to eliminate the PLO? And what is your perception of the PLO's role after the establishment of a Palestinian interim self-government?

['Abbas] The Palestinian grumbling has its silly motives. The Palestinian people's suffering has multiplied. Undoubtedly, the financial siege affects the expression and escalation of grievances in a tangible way.

Yes, we have made mistakes and they must be faced with the utmost courage and resolve. Some of the mistakes stem from the exceptional situation imposed on us, and others from our misconduct of numerous issues. I agree that there are those who do not wish to see the PLO alive. Therefore, I do not exclude their effect on us. It is very important that we try to develop our institutions, safeguard the unity of inside and outside, and enhance reliance on the Palestinian intellectual and economic potential.

As for strategy, this is basically related to our parliamentary institutions, headed by the National Council, which is responsible for drawing up strategies or ratifying them. The strategy is not wrong, but there have been mistakes in the performance of political action. We are trying as much as we can to assess those mistakes. Despite this, our effort is colliding with serious obstacles. There is a great deal that we must do to help our Palestinian people in their daily and political lives. We should leave no stone unturned to alleviate or at least ease our people's suffering.

'Arafat Expresses Hopes for Breakthrough in Talks

LD2308214493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Report on statement by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat delivered 23 August to members of the European conference for nongovernmental organizations concerned with the Palestinian issue; place not given; read by announcer]

[Excerpts] The following is the full text of the message of brother President Abu-'Ammar: [passage omitted]

It is no secret to you, O friends, that the peace process and the negotiations have reached a crisis because of attempts by Israel and the U.S. Administration to change the basis and points of reference upon which the peace process was based since the Madrid conference and until our present day. These were fixed by President Bush's initiative and the letters of invitation and guarantees that were based on the principle of exchanging land for peace and implementing Resolutions 241 and 338—meaning the Israeli withdrawal from occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, including Jerusalem, as well as allowing our people to practice their legitimate political rights and guaranteeing security for everyone in the region.

The 10th round of bilateral peace negotiations reached a dead end. When the U.S. Administration sent two delegations successively to the region—the first headed by Mr. Dennis Ross and the second by Secretary of State Mr. Warren Christopher—we had hoped that their tours

would have resulted in a breakthrough that would take the negotiations out of that dead end.

The U.S. Administration, however, presented us with a document, which we rejected. That is because of its treatment of some important and sensitive issues proposed, such as excluding Jerusalem and not proposing the issue of Israeli settlements and disagreement on the geographical zones, considering the occupied Palestinians lands as disputed territory, and the early relinquishing of [administrative and police] functions. In addition to all that, the Israeli Government escalated its iron fist policy in the occupied Palestinian lands, escalated its crimes and oppression, detentions and flagrant violations of Palestinian human rights, such as deliberate murder, detentions, deportation, razing homes and shelling them with missiles, splitting up areas and isolating them from one another, especially the isolation of Jerusalem and the desecration of Muslim and Christian holy sites, confiscation of water and land, the continuation of building and expanding the settlements, and the continuation of its barbaric attacks on Palestinian camps and Lebanese villages in south Lebanon.

The occurrence of all that did not help and did not encourage the creation of an atmosphere which would push the peace process and negotiations forward. Also, the economic situation in the occupied Palestinian lands was deteriorating very quickly as a result of the continuation of the economic siege and the closure imposed by the Israeli forces, which made the situation in the Gaza strip reach the extent of actual starvation. This is in addition to the financial siege on the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian people.

Here we are today heading for another round of peace negotiations. We hope that some progress will be achieved during them, particularly in issues of substance and sensitivity. To achieve that progress and from our desire to continue and make the peace process successful, we proposed a project that could bring the peace negotiations out of the crisis they are in and that is carrying out effective disengagement in Jericho and Gaza, which would be linked to the solution of the rest of the occupied Palestinian lands, including holy Jerusalem. We also called for a direct and public dialogue between the PLO and the Israeli Government and for the resumption of dialogue between the PLO and the U.S. Administration.

In the light of this fateful phase and the difficult circumstances that our Palestinian people are going through, we call on you in their name and through you to all friends, forces, and nongovernmental organizations effective in European communities to stand beside our people, to increase support for them so that they can continue their just and legitimate struggle to end the Israeli occupation and lift injustice and suffering, to set up just and desired peace in the region so that our people can live under an atmosphere of peace in freedom and pride within an independent state, just like other peoples in the world. [passage omitted]

Editorial: Israeli 'Self-Restraint' Not Deceiving

PM2408104693 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 21-22 Aug 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Feigned Israeli Self-Restraint"]

[Text] Increasing Israeli statements on self-restraint in the wake of the huge fedayeen operation carried out by Hizballah fighters in southern Lebanon, in which 10 Israelis were killed, can deceive no one. Especially as such operations will continue, there is no guarantee that they will stop, and self-restraint is not a fixed Israeli policy.

Yitzhaq Rabin's government is these days under mounting pressure from the opposition Likud Bloc to withdraw from the peace negotiations and deal a strong blow to Syria. This pressure could result in the Rabin government's resorting to the military option once again to expand the security belt and forcibly impose the step of disarming Hizballah on the Syrian and Lebanese Government.

Israeli officials' statements on self-restraint and not embarking on a major retaliatory military operation could be a kind of concealment for such an operation. The Rabin government waited five days before launching its continued raids on al-Biqa' and southern Lebanon in retaliation for the killing of seven of its soldiers in fedayeen operations by Hizballah and the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine]-General Command led by Ahmad Jibril.

If it really turns out that Israel will delay any retaliatory action until after the 11th round of negotiations has been held, it could mean that some kind of a deal was reached during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region two weeks ago, and that the Rabin government does not want to embark on any action to abort it.

Anyone who follows Rabin's recent statements will sense that that he has for the first time spoken about the possibility of his government's taking the most serious decisions in its history in the coming months concerning the demarcation of the borders with its neighbors. These decisions are a preparation for a settlement and are designed to prepare Israeli public opinion for "concessions" to the parties participating in the negotiations, especially in Lebanon and the Golan.

It is difficult for us to trust Israel and its officials' statements. Israel—at least in our view—is still the enemy posing the most serious threat to the Arabs—the enemy who is usurping rights, occupying territory, and murdering children.

And if the Rabin government has decided not to continue its retaliatory operations against the Lebanese, it is because it fears disastrous consequences. This is because invasion means further losses and torpedoing the peace process, from which Israel has benefited and in which the Arabs have lost a great deal. And raids on Lebanese villages could mean the return of the Katyusha rockets to northern Galilee and Israeli settlements there.

It is regrettable for the United States to condemn the fedayeen operation carried out by Hizballah on Lebanese territory against occupying forces, when it did not condemn the Israeli retaliatory raid against resistance positions.

As long as this U.S. bias toward Israel and its terrorist operations against the Arabs continues, tension and instability in the Arab region as a whole will continue.

The resistance remains an honorable phenomenon in the face of U.S. and Israeli oppression. And we hope that God will send the Arab frontline states weak government incapable of controlling the resistance, as it has proved that strong Arab governments are a disaster for their peoples and their pan-Arab and liberation aspirations, because these governments use their power only to suppress their citizens.

Al-Rantisi Confirms Release of 205 Deportees 8-9 Sep

NC2408142493 Paris AFP in English 1316 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, Aug 24 (AFP)—Israel has agreed to repatriate on September 8 and 9 more than 200 of the Palestinian deportees marooned in south Lebanon since last year, deportee spokesman 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said Tuesday [24 August].

Al-Rantisi said he had been informed by the deportees' family lawyers that 205 of the 396 exiles, who have been stranded in a barren no-man's land since last December, would be allowed home on these dates.

He predicted all the remaining Palestinians would be repatriated before the December 17 date set by Israel, but gave no more details.

Israel expelled 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories on December 17 for their alleged ties with militant Islamic fundamentalist groups.

Following intense international pressure, it allowed 19 deportees who were sick or expelled by mistake to go home earlier this year.

The remaining deportees, who had demanded Israel comply with a U.N. resolution calling for their immediate return and earlier vowed to go home together or not at all, voted on August 15 to accept an offer made by Israel the previous week to repatriate them in two stages.

Comments on Hamas, Possible Civil War

NC2508091793 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 20 Aug 93 p 10

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, official spokesman of the Palestinian deportees in south Lebanon, by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] [AL-SAFIR] What is your assessment of the political effects of the deportation on the "Islamic Resistance Movement" [Hamas]?

[Al-Rantisi] The movement has achieved great benefits after the deportation. It emerged from being a local and regional movement into an international movement that has supporters all over the world. Its popular base has also expanded. There is now a clear rise in its electoral asset and it has achieved a 15-percent increase in the elections held in various establishments. The movement has also succeeded in convincing the Palestinian people of its political stand, which is different from that of the PLO. Therefore, we now find that public opinion in Palestine is in full harmony with the Hamas stands. The latest opinion poll showed that more than 90 percent of the Palestinian people reject returning to the negotiations.

Additionally, the movement has gained significant experience from the deportation, namely the political experience that its supporters have gained from the deportees and the ability to bear the tribulation as if they are preparing for a coming stage.

[AL-SAFIR] What is this stage?

[Al-Rantisi] I mean a new stage of tribulation and suffering because I have always believed that the nation gets nearer to a happy ending when the sufferings and agonies intensify.

[AL-SAFIR] What is the political experience gained by the deportees?

[Al-Rantisi] We have had direct contact with the world media as a result of the deportation. Additionally, our cause interacted with the Arab nation's causes, influenced them, and was influenced by them. The deportation experience itself and how the deportees dealt with it have given them significant experience.

[AL-SAFIR] It appears that the Hamas operations have abated following your deportation and the surge on the occupied West Bank and Gaza. The "Islamic Jihad" movement appeared to be more active on the ground at one time. Has your deportation had a negative effect in this area?

[Al-Rantisi] I do not agree with what you are saying. All the recent operations were carried out by "Hamas," except that of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) bus operation, which was carried out by the Jihad organization. The latter has only carried out one operation. The surge requires a change in the method of confrontation. Leaders of the occupied authorities have said in their statements that "Hamas" has attuned itself quickly to the new situation and therefore its blows were painful.

[AL-SAFIR] Your assessment of the experience then is a positive one at the political and military levels?

[Al-Rantisi] Military action has doubled after the deportation.

[AL-SAFIR] Regarding the future of the movement's political action and operations, it appears that the negotiations are today nearing a "semi-solution." What will the Hamas stand on this be?

[Al-Rantisi] The Islamic movement will be facing several choices. Some of them can, I believe, be implemented while others cannot. It is my view that the movement will not resort to violence that might lead to a civil war that will entrench the occupation because it will then be said that they [the Palestinians] are not fit for anything except the occupation. I believe that the movement will lose a major part of its popular base if there is a civil war. The movement cannot take part in elections that lead to autonomy where there is no sovereignty over the land or even the human being and where the (Palestinian authority) will be merely an executive administration and not a legislative one.

The other thing that prevents Hamas from participating in such elections is that it will be a recognition of Israel. This is something that the movement cannot accept because it believes that the land of Palestine is an Islamic territory or waqf [religious endowment] and no Muslim individual, organization, or generation can relinquish it because it belongs to the Muslim generations until the day of judgment. Hence, I believe that Hamas will forcefully oppose this but without resorting to the use of arms.

[AL-SAFIR] Even if Hamas is forced in this direction?

[Al-Rantisi] Self-defense is a legitimate act.

[AL-SAFIR] What if the conditions of autonomy resulting from the negotiations improve?

[Al-Rantisi] There remains the part dealing with recognizing Israel. The issue does not depend on the conditions for autonomy. It is an ideological issue as far as we are concerned. Recognizing the state of Israel contradicts the Islamic shari'ah.

[AL-SAFIR] In the case where a settlement is reached, what will the movement's stand be on Israel?

[Al-Rantisi] Palestine was occupied during the Crusader times for 100 years. But it was then retrieved. We approach the Palestine question and what is called the state of Israel from an ideological perspective. We need to continue our jihad to earn one of the two rewards, either victory or martyrdom. [reference to Islamic ideals]

[AL-SAFIR] Will the jihad methods change?

[Al-Rantisi] Perhaps.

[AL-SAFIR] Does this mean that in the case where the state of Palestine is established, you will promise to keep its security, for example?

[Al-Rantisi] That will not deter the Islamic movement from performing its jihad.

[AL-SAFIR] Is the dialogue between the movement and the PLO still suspended?

[Al-Rantisi] I think the dialogue with the PLO continues, but it will not lead to any results so long as the PLO continues its negotiations.

[AL-SAFIR] So dialogue continues?

[Al-Rantisi] As far as I know, of course.

[AL-SAFIR] Will the results of this dialogue change if the PLO succeeds in reaching a solution in the negotiations?

[Al-Rantisi] The two courses are completely different things. However, I support continuing the dialogue to avert a civil war. In Palestine in particular, there is a third party, namely the Jews, who are seeking to inflame such a war, which we reject. The tribal distribution of the people of Palestine will be a destructive tool. In the case where a civil war starts the results will be very dangerous and will blow everything apart, including the Islamic movement. Therefore, I believe that continuing dialogue is a must and there can be no losses in that.

[AL-SAFIR] What is the possibility of such a war taking place?

[Al-Rantisi] The Protocols of the Elders of Zion stipulate that if the Jews occupy a land, they should not give its people anything more than autonomy. After that, they should start the fire of war among the various groups of these people so that everyone would then claim that only the Jews are capable of ruling that people. This was stipulated before the occupation of Palestine, like the teachings of the Torah.

So long as there is a third party, the possibility of a civil war continues. Lebanon and its experiences with war are not forgotten by us. This possibility can be eliminated through the presence of some level-headed people capable of understanding the need for agreement, not resorting to fighting, and maintaining the freedom of each party by allowing it to express its opinion clearly regarding the points of dispute without gagging their mouths. Only then can we avoid such a possibility.

[AL-SAFIR] Are there any current efforts being exerted in this direction?

[Al-Rantisi] Yes. I think the meetings taking place are exerting efforts to realize this.

[AL-SAFIR] What are the details of these meetings?

[Al-Rantisi] I have no knowledge of any details. I do not know when these meetings take place. However, I hear from the media that there are such meetings. I believe they are for this purpose.

[AL-SAFIR] What, in your opinion, is the effect of relations between the Palestinian Islamic and PLO currents on the future of the question of Palestine?

[Al-Rantisi] The primary force inside the occupied territories now is the Islamic force. Of course, it has some influence and imposes itself. However, the negotiating delegation and the PLO will continue to derive their power and importance from international support for their stands, including support from Israel and the Arab governments for their current course. I believe that when a certain solution is reached, the PLO's stand will be like the Algerian Government's stand for example, or the stand of any other regime suffering from a divide between the official and popular stands.

[AL-SAFIR] Talking about the Algerian example suggests the inevitability of a civil war?

[Al-Rantisi] Yes. But we as a conscious Islamic movement will not think of that. We will only think of fighting the occupation.

[AL-SAFIR] What is the Hamas stand on the "Gaza-Jericho First" plan? Hamas has already declared its agreement to the establishment of a state as the first stage on the course of liberating all Palestine.

[Al-Rantisi] Hamas was very clear when it said this. It said that if any part of Palestine's territories is liberated then let a state be established on it if this is done without recourse to the negotiating table or recognition of Israel. This can be done only through force.

If we remove Israel from, say, a quarter of Palestine through force, do we establish a state on it or wait? In this way a quarter would have been liberated without recognizing that the remaining three quarters are the State of Israel. The problem with the negotiations is that the process is not one of liberation but of obtaining a small part of Palestine that does not exceed 9 percent of its territory in return for the Palestinian side's recognition that the remaining 91 percent is Israel's territories. Hamas rejects this.

[AL-SAFIR] Will the movement recognize the Palestinian state if it is established as a result of the negotiations?

[Al-Rantisi] No state will be established through negotiations.

[AL-SAFIR] Let us suppose so?

[Al-Rantisi] We will not recognize the State of Israel then.

[AL-SAFIR] But since you are not a partner in the negotiations, you will not be forced to recognize Israel?

[Al-Rantisi] Exactly.

[AL-SAFIR] Will you then recognize the Palestinian state?

[Al-Rantisi] We will not reject the establishment of a Palestinian state unless our nonrejection means recognition of Israel. We will not oppose this if it spares us recognition of Israel.

Let me be clear. We categorically refuse to recognize the State of Israel. We reject any plan that is at the expense of relinquishing the remaining Palestinian territories.

[AL-SAFIR] What is Hamas' view of a possible confederation with Jordan?

[Al-Rantisi] As a Muslim, I believe that all the Muslim countries are on Muslim territories and there should be no borders between them. Hence I support the unity of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples, but if the price of the confederation is the relinquishment of part, even a small one, of Palestine, then I am against it. I support a confederation that has no price attached to it and oppose one that has a price attached.

[AL-SAFIR] In an interview with AL-SAFIR, Jordanian House of Representatives Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat supported, as a Muslim, the unity of Muslims but came out against a confederation as proposed now.

[Al-Rantisi, interrupting] Because it involves recognition of Israel.

[AL-SAFIR] Also because he believes that it will place all the Palestinians' social, political, and economic problems on Jordan's shoulders while security and defense will remain an Israeli responsibility. What do you think?

[Al-Rantisi] The present solution is unacceptable. As I said, if the price is the recognition of Israel and the relinquishment of part of Palestine, then it is unacceptable. Therefore Dr. 'Arabiyat does not have to be embarrassed since we are rejecting the establishment of a confederation at the expense of giving up Palestine.

[AL-SAFIR] How is the present relationship between Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan?

[Al-Rantisi] Hamas has good relations with Muslims all over the world.

[AL-SAFIR] Who is financing Hamas?

[Al-Rantisi] The Islamic world movement has a part in this. It is the one backing Hamas.

Algeria

Islamic Group Claims Former Premier's Assassination

JN2408205993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Qusayy Salih al-Darwish dispatch from Algiers, carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] A statement signed by the Armed Islamic Group [al- jama'ah al-islamiyah al-musallahah] was distributed in Algiers this evening, claiming responsibility for the assassination of former Algerian prime minister, Kasdi Merbah.

The statement criticized the world and Arab media that portrayed Merbah as an opponent of injustice and as a moderate with the Islamists, who was seeking a rapprochement with them.

The statement describes Merbah as a renegade, who, as head of the Military Intelligence for 17 years, started new inquisitions in Algeria and tortured, killed, jailed, and made homeless, orphan, and widow thousands of believers, including men, women, children, and old people.

The statement concludes by saying that the Islamic court passed its verdict some time ago and that the list that the mujahidin have posted in mosques is still open.

This serious statement must be viewed with some caution because its true source cannot be verified at present. Some Arabic newspapers published in London received a faxed copy of the statement, and it seems that the statement was sent from outside Britain, but was redistributed from inside London.

The statement seems strange because it came after talk among the Algerian political quarters about the Islamists' responsibility in Merbah's assassination had begun to die down.

The widow of the late Algerian prime minister was cited as saying that she was certain the Islamic Salvation Front had no hand in her husband's assassination.

Meanwhile, informed Algerian sources say that the number of people who carried out Merbah's assassination ranges between 20 and 30, and not five as was officially reported. Reliable sources revealed that the perpetrators mutilated the victim's body after they killed him. Traces of 520 bullets were found in his body. Those who killed Merbah wanted to emphasize the account-settling nature of the assassination. The latest statement issued by the Armed Islamic Group wanted to emphasize the Islamists' responsibility.

The major question, which remains unanswered is: Where does the real truth lie?

Six-Man Armed Group Said 'Eliminated' by Police

LD2408221393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The security services today announced that the security forces have eliminated an armed group which included six elements, including one of Moroccan nationality. During the operation which took place last night in the area of Le Gue de Constantine in the capital, the security forces recovered two automatic pistols.

This group carried out many operations, including arson and burglary.

Egypt

Mubarak, Shaykh Zayid Resume Talks in Alexandria

NC2408140493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 24 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan resumed their talks at al-Muntazah Palace in Alexandria today.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, head of the president's press office, stated that the two leaders continued discussing the issues and subjects they started discussing at the beginning of Shaykh Zayid's visit, generally dealing with the current important issues in the Arab and Islamic arenas.

He said that the talks also dealt with the means to strengthen and develop bilateral cooperation in various fields for the benefit of the peoples in Egypt and the UAE.

'Abd-al-Mun'im added that Presidents Mubarak and Zayid also reviewed the joint investment projects in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Syrian Parliamentary Speaker, Delegation End Visit

NC2408152593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA)—'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly and chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU], and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this evening for home following a four-day visit to Egypt. During this visit, the parliamentary delegation was received by President Husni Mubarak and held talks with People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur on the preparations to convene the next APU conference and the International Parliamentary Union conference in Australia in the middle of September.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ilah, chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee.

Foreign Minister Praises Relations With Russia

LD2408143993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1346 GMT 24 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Yelistratov]

[Text] Cairo August 24 TASS—"We have witnessed large upswings during the 50-year-long history of our relations after the establishment of diplomatic relations between the former USSR and Egypt, as well as several declines caused by arising difficulties. Sooner or later, we were able to surmount the latter," Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa told ITAR-TASS on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Moscow and Cairo, which falls due on August 26, 1993.

"The deep roots of relations between the peoples of our two countries have ensured their onward advance and have safeguarded them from the serious consequences of certain differences, including ideologies and differing views on the methods to settle some regional and international problems," the minister stressed. According to 'Amr Musa, the conclusion of contracts to deliver Soviet armaments to Egypt could be regarded as the first important step towards cooperation. The minister regards the signing of several agreements on Soviet financial and technical assistance to Egypt as the second and one of the most important milestones on this road. "The main achievement of this period," he noted, "was the building of the Aswan Dam and the power complex linked with it."

'Amr Musa also put the accent on the reconstruction and modernisation of the Egyptian Armed Forces, to which "your military experts and specialists had made a direct contribution. Set up at that time with Soviet assistance was the 'missile wall along the Suez Canal, which was largely to thank for the Egyptian victory in the war against Israel in October 1973'."

Assessing the current state of relations between Egypt and Russia and the prospects for their development, 'Amr Musa expressed the conviction that the relegation to the background of ideological aspects in bilateral relations between Egypt and Russia has created a "sound atmosphere", which allows both sides to look into the future with optimism. "Our contacts have a good foundation earlier laid in the cultural, economic, scientific and technological areas. At present, as I see it, an increasing role is being played by relations among representatives of the private sector, among businessmen of the two countries, who are now beginning to establish contacts."

'Amr Musa noted that both Egypt and Russia have differing views on some international problems. "We adhere to different stands," he said, "on how the world community should deal with Serbia and the Republic of Yugoslavia, by what methods we should stop the Serbian aggression, defend the Bosnian Moslems from 'ethnic cleansings' and massacres, etc."

"Russia's efforts to ensure the unswerving fulfilment of the U.N. Security Council Resolution No. 242 and the adoption by all sides involved in the conflict of the principle 'land in exchange for peace'," 'Amr Musa believes, "will be received with approval by all the states of the region. Moreover, Moscow's policy to uphold the lawful rights of the Palestinians, its demand for the unconditional withdrawal of all Israeli troops from the occupied Arab territories, and the possibility of Russian guarantees to the security of the borders of all the Middle East states after the restoration of stability in the region, has always been hailed by Egypt and the other Middle East nations."

Editor Disputes Court Verdict in al-Mahjub Case

NC2408155093

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on pages 1 and 3 of its 16 August edition publishes a 2,500-word editorial by Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari titled "The Sentences in the al-Mahjub Case: The Right of Ratification and a Reading of the Court Statement."

"Today's topic is a thorny one," al-Ansari says as he begins his comment on the ruling by the Emergency Higher State Security Court on the case involving the assassination attempt of People's Assembly Speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub. On 14 August, the court acquitted all 27 defendants of murdering al-Mahjub, but gave 10 of them prison sentences, ranging from three to 15 years, for possession of unlicensed weapons and use of forged ID's.

Al-Ansari writes that he wishes to discuss two points concerning the ruling: One is that of the right of the "military ruler," who in this case is President Husni Mubarak, to rescind the court's verdict, and the other is the explanation the court president gave justifying the verdict.

Al-Ansari then discusses the legalities involving the work of the Higher State Security Court. He reports that a verdict issued by that court is "not subject to appeal," although it is "subject to ratification" by the president or whomever he empowers.

The president, al-Ansari explains, is entitled to "commute" the verdict or to "suspend" it. He is also entitled to "repeal" the verdict and order a retrial. Al-Ansari points out that the president would normally obtain the opinion of a "technical legal office" before ordering a retrial of a case already tried by such a court. Al-Ansari does not say whether Mubarak intends to take such a step. Although he devotes the rest of the article to disputing the Court's verdict, al-Ansari stops short of recommending that Mubarak rescind the verdict or order a retrial of the case.

Al-Ansari then challenges the court's verdict. The judge trying the case, al-Ansari tells us, differentiated in his statement accompanying the verdict between the "compilation of evidence" and the "legitimacy of the means through which the evidence was obtained." The judge

stated that the court cannot use evidence obtained by questionable means, because "what is based on wrongdoing is wrong."

Al-Ansari says he begs to differ. He believes that "the use of illegitimate means—such as coercion or torture—during the interrogation, if proved, would simply constitute another crime," which does not "cancel a proven crime that took place in broad daylight." The evidence itself, "so long as it is correct" should not be dismissed simply because of questions surrounding the means by which it was obtained, al-Ansari argues.

Writer Condemns Torture, Demands Respect for Rights

NC2408164793 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 16 Aug 93 p 16

[Mustafa Amin's "Idea" column]

[Text] The acquittal of the defendants accused of killing [former People's Assembly Speaker] Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub was a significant verdict. The court said in its ruling that the prerequisites of a death penalty were lacking and that it obtained no incontrovertible evidence that would satisfy it that it had learned the facts of the case in a judicial sense.

The court justified its refusal to pass death sentences by saying that not a single eyewitness to the assassination was brought forward, not even the armed escorts themselves, although the incident occurred in broad daylight and in the city center at the meeting of three streets with several security posts nearby.

The most serious declaration the court made was that all the defendants had been tortured. It announced that its judicial conscience could not allow the authorities to use such ugly methods against unarmed citizens. It noted that the security forces resorted to these methods to cover up their incompetence and their inability to uncover the truth, so they fabricated evidence and presented it to the prosecutors.

The court noted that the confessions made by the defendants were made under torture and after stressful interrogation. If the appeals court ratifies this significant verdict then an investigating committee must be formed to identify all those responsible for such behavior. Acquitting the defendants is not enough when such grave actions are attributed to the police. We wish to use this verdict to demand guarantees that will ensure that citizens get a fair trial and that no evidence will be fabricated and submitted to the prosecutors. We wish to ensure that the authorities do not arm themselves with such ugly methods when they confront an unarmed citizen, as the court noted in its verdict.

It is not important if one criminal or 10 escape punishment. What is important is that no innocent person is wronged or accused on the basis of fabricated evidence.

Another serious thing the court said was that the defendants sustained injuries during their interrogation. Medical reports proved that they had been whipped, had electric currents passed through sensitive areas of their bodies, were blindfolded, and strung up to get confessions from them. This was repeated at every interrogation session. The court asserted that some of them became partially paralyzed in their upper arms.

How shocking! This is why we demand human rights, every single one!

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Willing To Invest 'Billions' in U.S.

NC2408175393 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 21 Aug 93 pp 1, 3

[Editorial by Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari: "Footnotes: An Important Visit; al-Qadhdhafi and America; a Meeting"; quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] Wednesday [18 August] was a day of continuous discussions between President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The discussions began at the guest house where Mubarak was staying and continued in another resort until the evening. At night the two leaders resumed their talks in an old Spanish-Turkish castle standing proudly atop a hill overlooking the Mediterranean. [passage omitted]

We journalists were invited to a "light" dinner at the "castle." Until then, we had had no chance to approach the two leaders or even the members of the delegations, who were totally absorbed in their talks. [passage omitted]

After the castle meeting and the "light dinner," President Mubarak said good night to us, but as he was leaving to return to his residence, he told us: "Stay here. Do not leave. The colonel is waiting for you and wants to talk to you."

It was nearly midnight when al-Qadhdhafi returned, having seen President Mubarak off. He invited us to sit with him. The ensuing dialogue developed into "a discussion that was cordial but heated."

The colonel is not the same. Many changes have occurred. Clouds of worry envelop him, tempering his rebellion and pride, throttling his vitality and elan. There has been much change. The obstinacy has gone, leaving room for reason. Rejection has disappeared, replaced with a "realism" combining the logic of the revolution with the necessities of the times. [passage omitted]

An expression of ill-temper, anger, defiance, sadness, and frustration passed over al-Qadhdhafi's face and lingered in his eyes for a moment as the discussion ventured into the prohibited zone, invading areas fraught with sensitivities and embarrassment.

I think there are three such areas:

First, the Lockerbie crisis, also known as the Libyan-Western crisis. Second, the travel of Libyan "pilgrims" to Jerusalem. [passage omitted] Third, the modest volume of commercial, economic, technical, and service-related transactions between Egypt and Libya, despite the strong ties between the leaders. This hesitant and "reluctant" willingness to direct Libyan investments to Egypt contrasts with an open and even enthusiastic wish to invest billions of Libyan dollars in the United States itself.

The colonel looked "edgy" as he fielded our questions on the Lockerbie issue. As the discussion went on, it became clear that there were two conflicting issues. We wanted to find a way to reconcile or prioritize these two issues, while he insisted on linking and combining them. These are:

- National dignity and sovereignty.
- Practical considerations, stands, and resolutions aimed at preserving the land, resources, and sons of the homeland without being lowered into subservience or humiliation.

Al-Qadhdhafi bases his position on the issue of whether to hand over the "suspects" or not on a number of factors:

- The Cold War era is different from the era that followed it. Therefore, what took place during the Cold War era should not be prosecuted in the post-Cold War era. The norms, laws, rules, and values are no longer the same. No one is blameless from involvement in the worst excesses during the Cold War, particularly the Americans and the Soviets. The Cold War and its file should be consigned to the dustbin of history and oblivion and its events should not be exhumed or revived.
- The second point al-Qadhdhafi focused on was double standards. Some countries are being punished in the name of international law and the UN Charter while others are immune. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi wonders what benefit the U.S. people can gain from the destruction of Libya and its people. I think [al-Qadhdhafi says] that it is better and more useful for America to open the door to cooperation and understanding and close the door to vengeance, destruction, and murder.

In which case, al-Qadhdhafi states, we would be ready to direct billions of Libyan dollars in investments to the United States. We are also willing to open the way to U.S. investment in the Libyan oil industry, with its unlimited prospects.

We have no hostile intentions toward the administration of President Clinton. We have been allies with and supporters of the minorities that brought him to power, the blacks, the American Indians, and others. They are our friends and his supporters.

We appreciate Clinton's courage in closing down 90 U.S. bases around the world, a request I made 15 years ago.

We pledge not to do anything to bother the new U.S. President and his administration.

We are full of good intentions, and we await Clinton's response. I do not think that this four-week ultimatum is sufficient to resolve the problem. Nor do I think that escalating the blockade and sanctions will open the way for settlement and solution.

We have had differences with the United Kingdom over assistance to the Irish Republican Army, and we closed that file.

For almost two years now we have been under sanctions. We have paid the price. Why should I capitulate now that I have already paid the price?

What is needed is an honorable solution, not more pressure to make us capitulate. [passage omitted]

Offer To Aid 60 Bosnians Contingent on Libyan Planes

LD2408134093 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] An official source at the General People's Committee of the People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau has said that the General People's Committee of Health and Social Security is willing to host and treat 60 injured persons from Bosnia-Herzegovina, provided that they are brought to the Jamahiriyah aboard Libyan Arab Airways planes.

Sudan

New Ambassador to Iran on 'Strong' Ties

LD2408143093 Tehran IRNA in English 1345 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 24, IRNA—The newly-appointed Sudanese ambassador to Tehran Qutbi al-Mahdi said political, cultural and economic ties between Tehran and Khartoum are very strong. He made the remark in an interview with IRNA before leaving here for Tehran.

He said that since last year Washington by using the Tehran-Khartoum relations as an excuse and accusing Sudan of establishing terrorist training bases, attempted to push Khartoum out of the political scene. However, he added, Sudan decided to act independently and rely on its own potentials, he added.

"Putting Sudan on the black list will not have a significant impact on Sudan because we do not rely on American aid... Just as the U.S. is free to make a black list, we too can make and publish a list of real terrorists," he added.

As for Sudan's relations with the Persian Gulf states, the Sudanese diplomat said that attempts of Sudan for

improvement of relations with the Persian Gulf states are not well received. Definitely Washington is instigating some of these countries not to cooperate with Sudan. However, he added, Khartoum can prevent this by using the potentials it has among the Arab community.

Commenting on the so-called Arab-Israeli peace talks, he said that even if they produce no result, the continuation of the negotiations is of immense benefit for Israel because the Zionists want to reduce the momentum of the anti-Zionist campaign.

Letter to Arab League Denies U.S. Allegations

EA2408183093 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih, the foreign minister, has sent a letter to the secretariat general of the Arab League concerning the American allegations and the inclusion of Sudan on the list of states that the United States alleges sponsor terrorism. Mr. Bashir Muhammad al-Hasan, the Sudanese charge d'affaires in Cairo, has delivered the letter to Mr. Adnan Umran, the assistant secretary general for political affairs of the Arab League.

In the letter, Sudan denied the American accusations, stressing that the United States had not provided evidence supportive of these accusations. Mr. Bashir Muhammad al-Hasan went on to say that Sudan does not shelter terrorism and nor does it provide assistance to any terrorist operations, saying that such activities do not conform with the behavioral standards of the Sudanese people. He said the American accusations were aimed at attenuating Sudan's unity and sovereignty by curbing the exercise of its national options.

His excellency also noted that active contacts were currently in progress between Sudan and Egypt to fix the next meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries to arrive at a common viewpoint on the relevant issues.

Group Protests to U.S. Embassy

EA2408173093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpts] The People's Association for the Defense of the Faith and the Homeland marched this morning in a great procession against the outrageous American decision to include the Sudan among the states which Washington claims sponsor terrorism. The envoys of the association presented a memorandum to the American Embassy in Khartoum affirming the rejection of the American decision by the Sudanese masses and their rejection of the manner of hegemony and exploitation.

The procession subsequently proceeded to the Council of Ministers' buildings where 'Ustadh Abd-al-Basit Sabdirat, minister of education and instruction, addressed the procession on behalf of Lieutenant-General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers.

He said the American decision targets the choice of the Sudanese masses, which is Islam, which has been declared by all the political circles in the world as an alternative after the collapse of the communist camp. [passage omitted]

He said that if America has placed us among the states which it claims are terrorists, we are placing it at the head of the list of states opposed to Islam and Muslims, together with its ally, Israel. The People's Association for the Defense of the Faith and the Homeland presented a memorandum to the representative of the chairman of the RCC and the Council of Ministers in which they declared the agreement of the Sudanese masses with the application of god's law, spread of consultation and fulfillment of the slogan of self-reliance and achievement of peace and security in the country.

The memorandum said that the U.S. has been promoting a crisis with the Sudan since the emergence of the revolution, out of fear of Islam, and pointed out the rejection by Sudanese citizens of all the outrages perpetrated by the United States. The memorandum called for a decree reducing the number of the diplomats at the American Embassy as an expression of Sudan's condemnation of the U.S. interference in its internal affairs.

Commentary Examines U.S. Aims

EA2408222093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Commentary by al-Khayr Abdullah Mahjub—read by Muhammad Musa 'Abd-al-Rahman]

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen: The political and popular forces have condemned all the American provocations and accusations in including Sudan on the list of states that support terrorism, culminating in the outrageous decision. Today the various sectors of Sudanese national society confirmed their solidarity with the internal front and expressed their rejection of the decision and the aggression against Islam and the Muslims, at the same time confirming the role being performed by Sudan in upholding international peace. The radio's news commentary is on this subject. It was written by al-Khayr Abdullah Mahjub and it will be read by Muhammad Musa 'Abd-al-Rahman:

At the official and popular levels Sudan is standing up to and resisting the American attack, which is aimed against the country's honorable civilized orientation, its free exercise of its political and economic options, and its rejection of client hood and vassalage. The people of Sudan are collectively rejecting being targeted and oppressed. They are sincerely expressing the values of this great people. With their popular activities the people of Sudan, the activities of the youth, students and women, collectively express their rejection and condemnation of the outrageous American decision of including Sudan in the alleged list of states sponsoring terrorism.

In actual fact the case is an American move to serve its orientation and interests which are hostile to the peoples. Accusations of terrorism have become part of the American tradition as a component with which to besiege attitudes, ideas, and orientations serving the interests of the peoples and mobilizing them in exercising their options to shake off the shackles of exploitation, something which upsets the Americans in the pursuit of their policies, which ultimately aim at grabbing the whole world by the scruff of the neck and controlling it completely.

Accordingly and in the context of Sudan's resistance to outrageous media, diplomatic and other campaigns have manifested themselves at the economic level with the decision to suspend Sudan's right to vote in the meetings of the IMF in preparation for suspending its membership and blockading it. At the political level they manifested themselves in America's decision to include Sudan in the alleged list of countries which support terrorism.

In the context of these attacks, Sudan has made energetic and diplomatic efforts in most of the world's states, as well as in international and regional organizations, in order to clarify its stance vis-a-vis the outrageous decision. In this respect we would point out that there have been some international and regional reactions confirming understanding of Sudan's stance. The first positive reaction was that issued by the Arab League, which described the American decision as weak and unsubstantiated. In addition to this, some of the Western media have said that the reports alleging that Sudan was sponsoring terrorism were totally untrue and mere exaggerations.

Moreover, it must be said that at the popular level, the citizens have expressed their rejection and condemnation together with the youths and students, farmers and workers, and tradesmen who participated in a popular procession to assert Sudan's rejection of arrogance. At the same time they stressed their determination to resist the destruction of their hard-sought achievements which they are working to realize soon. This massive popular demonstration was preceded and will be followed by general condemnation on the part of the popular committees and local councils representing the basic level of Sudan's political system, and these committees and councils will hold emergency conferences to discuss the American accusations and provocations with a view to publicizing the people's views and resolutions supportive of Sudan's move as a society and a state towards accomplishing its civilized plan.

We say here that the cohesive experiences of the internal front show it to be vigilant against threats to Sudan's security and that it resists threats to curb Sudan's freedom to exercise its options and threats to its civilized orientation, always filling minds with solidarity and ideological unity that leave their mark. The people organized their procession to celebrate honor, dignity, and God as the bestower of success.

Interior Minister Meets Iraqi Envoy

EA2408211093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, the interior minister and staff engineer, has received in his office His Excellency 'Abd-al-Samad Hamid, the ambassador of the Republic of Iraq, who delivered to him a letter from his Iraqi counterpart on cooperation between the two countries. The ambassador also conveyed to his excellency Iraq's condemnation of the American decision to include Sudan on the so-called list of states sponsoring terrorism. The ambassador also conveyed his embassy's condolences over the country's martyred fighter, Dr. Muhammad Ahmad 'Umar.

Military Official on Joint Border Forces With Chad

EA2408211593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Lieutenant-General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has been briefed on the role played by the Sudanese delegation which participated in the reconciliation negotiations between the Chadian Government and the Chadian opposition. The negotiations resulted in the signing of an agreement between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Major-General al-Tijani clarified that the Chadian side has affirmed its commitment to form joint border forces to counter the emergence of armed robbery on the border between the two countries and that the State of Darfur would coordinate with concerned authorities concerning this matter.

Oman

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives, Met by Sultan Qabus

JN2408192693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today began a private visit to the fraternal Sultanate of Oman. His majesty the king arrived this evening at Salalah Airport, where he was accorded an official reception ceremony. His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id led those who welcomed the king upon arrival.

During the visit, His Majesty King Husayn will hold consultations with his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman on bilateral ties, as well as regional and international developments.

The Jordanian delegation, led by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Omani delegation, headed by His Majesty Sultan Qabus, held a meeting at the al-Hisn Palace in Salalah. The two leaders exchanged views on Arab and regional issues, as well as on the means to reestablish Arab solidarity. They also reaffirmed their pride in the fraternal ties existing between Jordan and Oman.

With God's care and blessings, His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for Oman this afternoon. His Highness Prince Muhammad Bin-Talal, the personal representative of his majesty the king, was sworn in as regent, in the presence of his majesty the king, during the king's stay abroad. Cabinet ministers attended the oath-taking ceremony.

Yemen

Vice President on Economy, Ties with Gulf

NC2408171093 AL-SAFIR in Arabic 16 Aug 93 p 11

[Interview with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice president and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, by Sami Kulayb in Paris on 15 August]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Kulayb] There is much talk about a European role in the transfer of Yemen's Jews to Israel. What is the truth about this?

[Al-Bid] I don't know anything about it. We do not have a problem of this sort. This issue is part of the greater one of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It might be included in the context of the Middle East negotiations. I believe that it is necessary to tackle it within this context because it is not a separate issue. We should not be confused by this issue because the problem is not that big.

[Kulayb] But it has been extensively covered in the media. Do you believe that the leakage of the report was premeditated?

[Al-Bid] We have been hearing these rumors for some time. There are very few Jews in Yemen, and they are living without any problem.

[Kulayb] Let us move, if you permit, to the economic situation, which, it is being said, needs an immediate influx of huge amounts of money from abroad to avoid a catastrophe.

[Al-Bid] The economic conditions in Yemen are difficult, as is the case with all the developing countries. But these do not require great efforts because the economic cycle does not turn quickly. We first need stability that ensures the right climate for the economic solutions, and we also need to embark on a democratic process that will create better conditions for investments and improve the state's mechanism. I believe that the entire Yemeni leadership has the same feeling for the need to exert more efforts to improve our conditions; our people want to eat and do not want to hear resonant speeches and hopes that cannot be achieved. I believe that we now have to start taking steps to improve conditions.

It is my view that the reform of two important organs must be intensified, namely the financial and security organs. If reforms are achieved there, this could give the green light for the government to tackle the other sectors later.

I am saying this because the conditions are really a burden on the citizen. There is inflation and unemployment. Moreover, around a million Yemenis returned in the wake of the Gulf crisis and jobs, residences, and medical treatment have to be provided for them.

[Kulayb] You are linking the security and financial situations. What is impeding stability? Is it true that there are foreign hands that do not want this stability?

[Al-Bid] I mean the citizen's livelihood when I talk about the stability of security. If the citizen does not feel secure and stable, he might turn into a source of embarrassment. There might be activities from outside the country, but this is natural. I believe that the internal situation is the basis for nipping sedition and hunger in the bud. The absence of justice also forces man to resort to wrong methods.

Additionally, there are problems whose solutions require us to go back to their roots and causes, such as the problem of revenge. If this problem is not radically solved, then no security measures can contain it.

Therefore, security is an integrated concept and an important and fundamental link in the existence of the state and all its organs and departments. People want security.

[Kulayb] We will go to political issues later. But Western statistics say that the official economy does not represent more than 15 percent of the overall economic activity in Yemen. Why is this continuing?

[Al-Bid] I do not believe that this figure is right at all. Anyway, this is nothing to be ashamed of. We are in a state of change after unity. In the past, the economy relied on the state and the public sector, but the new policy allows competition between the public and private sectors. This change is important and necessary.

We now have a private sector that encourages rich Yemeni citizens abroad to return and invest. This is in addition to Arab and foreign investments that come to the country. Hence, the figures you mentioned do not worry us because we want other sectors to be active and want to give competition and investments an opportunity, especially as the expatriate Yemenis have billions of dollars. [passage omitted]

[Kulayb] Western sources say that Yemen's daily oil production will not exceed 300,000 barrels by the end of the year and that this will keep its economy dependent on the good intentions of Saudi Arabia.

[Al-Bid] Yemen has lived for a long time without oil. Therefore, we always think of promoting what we already have. We always feel the importance of promoting our economic relations whether we have oil or not. God willing, we will inaugurate a new oil pipeline in the Hadhramaut Governorate with a daily capacity of 120,000 barrels in September. There is also another oil discovery by the "Total" Company in Hadhramaut with a daily capacity of 40,000 barrels.

Many other similar efforts are being made in the eastern and southern sectors in a bid to promote the possibilities of discovering various kinds of wealth. However, oil is not everything. The aim is not to purchase the latest models of cars, build villas, and buy luxury items. We need to utilize our resources to develop agriculture and industry and to build the infrastructure.

Our past, present, and future relations with Saudi Arabia are fraternal. We must not always think of differences. We must look for points of agreement because we need each other.

[Kulayb] Does this mean that the Gulf states have started to improve their relations with you, given these relations were almost severed during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait?

[Al-Bid] I don't like the issue to be presented in this way. But I can say that what happened in the Gulf was a crisis that affected everyone of us as Arabs, whether those living in the Arabian Peninsula or in the Gulf. The regrettable military battles have destroyed both our resources and the resources of the Arab brothers living far from the battlefields.

I don't want to say who was responsible because we are all facing a crisis. The events have exhausted much of our resources and made us lose the spirit of solidarity and brotherhood. Everyone has become afraid everyone else. Therefore, let us think of a way to enable the nation to ride out its current ordeal.

[Kulayb] What about the border relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states? And will the solution of the border problems have any positive repercussions on the Yemeni workers who were expelled from the Gulf?

[Al-Bid] The Yemenis have lived in that area and they are known by the GCC sons as being an elite. The Yemenis are honest and devoted and have built many areas. We in Yemen would like to promote our relations with the GCC. Praise be to God, we managed to sign an agreement with Oman concerning the border issues and the reopening of the crossing points. A joint Yemeni-Saudi committee of experts will meet today. We hope that the committee will succeed in resolving our problems.

[Kulayb] Do you hope that this will also be applied to Kuwait?

[Al-Bid] We have no problem with Kuwait.

[Kulayb] But they have a problem with you since the Iraqi invasion?

[Al-Bid] Why? Let us address this question to them. We have not closed their embassy in our country. But they closed our embassy there. We are eager to preserve good relations. We say that nobody is better than anyone else and may God help us all.

[Kulayb] Has the issue of the PLO's transfer from Tunisia to Yemen been indeed raised?

[Al-Bid] I have no idea about the details because I was abroad. However, the Palestinians are most welcome. There are Palestinians here. But every Arab hopes to go back to his homeland. I do not believe any Arab country has reservations about the presence of Palestinians.

We have very good relations with the PLO. We support the peace negotiations, and we hope that something will be achieved. We believe that all problems that crop up from time to time must be solved. We also believe that the spirit of Arab solidarity must be restored as this will undoubtedly contribute to tipping the balance of power in favor of the Palestinians.

UN Convoy 'Narrowly' Escapes Iranian Shelling

NC2408210093 Paris AFP in English 2016 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, Aug 24 (AFP)—A U.N. peacekeeping convoy narrowly missed being hit by a shell during three days of Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi Kurdistan, U.N. and Kurdish authorities said Tuesday [24 August].

The Iranians have shelled the Halabjah, Darbandikhan and Raniyah areas, without causing casualties.

U.N. authorities in al-Sulaymaniyah said a shell landed 100 metres (yards) from one of their convoys on Sunday.

Iran has been shelling Iraqi Kurdistan continually since April, aiming at positions used by Iranian Kurdish opposition groups who have taken refuge in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

Tehran accuses the groups of planning attacks on Iran from Iraqi Kurdistan.

Baghdad To Exact 'Legitimate Rights' at UN Meeting

JN2508073593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0635 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA)—In an article today, AL-THAWRAH expresses hope that the meeting between an Iraqi delegation and the UN Special Commission in New York on 31 August will resolve remaining issues, steering clear of the language of threats and blackmail. The paper notes that Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations toward Resolution 687.

The upcoming meeting reaffirms Iraq's convictions and belief in serious, responsible dialogue, based on fair, reasonable foundations and in line with international law and the UN Charter, the paper says. It adds that Iraq has presented a position paper reflecting its view of the relationship between its commitments toward the Security Council and its legitimate right to sovereignty, independence, and a decent, free life for its people.

The paper asserts that Iraq's six-point position paper, reviewed by Ekeus and the Security Council, reflects a responsible, fair, and legitimate national position. It also reflects Iraq's serious, strong desire for further cooperation and concern for reaching a solution to unresolved questions, steering clear of the language of threats and blackmail.

The paper notes that, this time, Iraq is going to meet the Special Commission and the Security Council from a position of having very clear rights. Iraq, however, has no illusions about the malice and fickleness of the aggressive parties and their stands and unceasing attempts to distort facts and create crises to delay or obstruct any situation that could weaken or bury the blockade. The declared political objectives of these parties will not be achieved, whatever the malicious, conspiratorial schemes and methods involved.

The paper concludes: Iraq is going to this meeting not to make concessions to the aggressive parties but to exact one of its legitimate rights, as endorsed by their own resolutions.

Iranian Jul-Aug Cease-Fire Violations Protested to UN

JN2408145793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] United Nations, 24 Aug (INA)—Iraq has informed the United Nations of Iranian violations of the provisions of the ceasefire and the terms of the buffer zone between Iraq and Iran.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations stressed that the Iranian side resumed its violations of the provisions of the ceasefire agreement between the two countries. He said that these violations took place between 12 July and 10 August.

The letter, which was distributed yesterday as an official UN Security Council document, says that an Iranian gunboat patrol kidnapped an Iraqi fishing boat in Iraq's territorial waters near al-Anabib bridge on 12 July. The boat was carrying three fishermen.

The letter notes: On 21 July, a helicopter was monitored coming from Iran and landing in front of the Fakkeh guard post. It stayed there for 20 minutes, and then flew back to Iran.

The letter notes that on 25 July, approximately 20 soldiers were seen installing barbed wire fencing around the Iranian flag post in front of the Saddam guard post within the buffer zone. The letter stressed that on 28 July, a shovel [preceding word in English] and six people were seen building an observation post in front of the Harran [place name as received] guard post within the buffer zone.

The letter also said that on 31 July, the Iranian side was seen building a rampart in front of Salah-al-Din guard post. It also adjusted the area there and installed steel frames within the buffer zone. The letter added that on 1 August, Iranian patrols arrested four fishermen who were on board four Iraqi fishing boats in Iraqi territorial waters. The letter said that on 4 August, five Iranians fired four shots toward Iraqi units. A strong explosion occurred in the same area. Some shrapnel fell near Iraqi units within the buffer zone.

The letter noted: On 5 August, groups of saboteurs and a vehicle infiltrated into the buffer zone to carry out subversive acts. A huge, khaki-colored Iranian helicopter was seen flying at medium altitude in the Abu Gharib area on 6 August. It flew for several minutes and then returned to Iran. The same helicopter was seen again flying toward the Jalat [place name as received] valley in front of the Jalat guard post. It landed in that area and then flew back to Iran.

The letter stressed that on 10 August, the Iranian side built a two-meter high guard post of bricks within the buffer zone.

Allied Airspace 'Violations' Protested to Arab League

JN2408083993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Aug (INA)—Iraq yesterday sent a new letter to the Arab League secretary general briefing him on the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers' continued provision of facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft that violate Iraq's airspace.

In his letter, Iraq's permanent Arab League representative said that these aircraft violated Iraq' airspace after taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. They carried out 98 hostile air sorties on 19 and 20 August. He enclosed a list explaining these violations, and requested that the Arab member states be acquainted with these regrettable facts which pose a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

Saddam Receives Thank-You Cable From Sudan's al-Bashir

JN2408061493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a thank-you cable from his brother Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's National Salvation Revolution Command Council, in reply to the congratulatory cable his excellency sent on the fourth anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution. Following is the text:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Your Excellency brother Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq: With great appreciation, I have received the congratulatory cable you sent us on the fourth anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution. We wish the ties of brotherhood and cooperation between our two countries further strength. With my best wishes of good health and for your happiness, and of further progress and prosperity for your fraternal people,

[Signed] Your brother, Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, Republic of the Sudan

'Childhood Bridge' Envisaged Between Iraq and Tunisia

JN2408172493 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 Aug 93 p 1

[By Hadi 'Ali Ahmad, AL-THAWRAH Tunis correspondent]

[Text] The social affairs department of the Unionist Democratic Union [UDU] in Tunisia is to implement an agreement to set up a childhood bridge between Tunis and Baghdad.

The plan envisages a stockpile of medicines, medical examination equipment, surgical instruments, and medical analysis requirements on the basis of a study conducted by UDU officials and pediatricians, surgeons, and pharmacists.

The initiative is the outcome of a recent visit to Baghdad by a UDU delegation to familiarize themselves with the state of national health under conditions of the iniquitous embargo.

The first consignment of the medical aid is due in late August.

Commander on Training of Air Defense Fighters

JN2408194793 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 22 Aug 93 p 2

[By Qays Manan]

[Text] Pursuant to the instructions of the leader president, may God preserve him—and since the formation of the Air Defense Command—all the formations and units of the Air Defense have undergone intensive and concentrated training to enhance the efficiency of the fighters who succeeded in shooting down large numbers of the enemy missiles in the second aggression against beloved Baghdad.

In a statement to AL-QADISIYAH, Brigadier General Falih 'Abd-al-Rahim Kazim, director of the Air Defense Training Directorate, said:

Since the formation of our directorate in June of this year, we assumed the responsibility of preparing the officers and other ranks in the Air Defense to operate as one organization. In the past, members of the Air Defense were assigned to many different commands and branches. Furthermore, we assumed the responsibility of unifying the concepts of the Air Defense through a review of references and publications.

In light of the importance of the training institutions, in supporting formations and units with efficient fighters, our command exerted efforts to enhance the performance of the fighters in these institutions. Modern training equipment and methods were invented. Part of these methods and equipment were manufactured by the cadres of our training institutions by Iraqi means, and the other part was manufactured by the Military Industrialization Organization and its mujahidin. In the past, these tools were imported from abroad and paid for in hard currency.

We pledge to the leader president, may God preserve him, to exert our utmost to enhance the efficiency of the Air Defense fighters in order to enable them protect our country's airspace.

Rabin 'Forthcoming' on Issue of Gaza Transfer

TA2408175093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpt] After his meeting with the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Prime Minister Rabin visited the Gaza Strip, where he met senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders, inaugurated a pilot desalination plant, and answered reporters' questions on the upcoming round of peace talks, the situation in Lebanon, and the future of the Arrow antimissile. With the prime minister was our reporter Alan Ben-'Ami.

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] Prime Minister Rabin says he is confident that the next round of peace talks will open as scheduled in just over a week. He is not prepared to say if he shares the opinion of his foreign minister, Shim'on Peres, that agreements between Israel and the Palestinians are close. Nor would he be drawn into commenting on the current discord within the ranks of the Palestinians. But, Israel is ready to discuss all sorts of proposals to advance to an interim self-governing authority, where the Palestinians in the territories will run their own lives, said Rabin. Although he would not talk about the possibility of handing Jericho and the Jordan Valley to Palestinian control as has been speculated, he was more forthcoming regarding Gaza.

[Rabin] As far as the possibility to accelerate the process of transferring powers, spheres of activities, to the Palestinians in Gaza, there is no problem with us. The same applies to the redeployment of the IDF in the Gaza area. We will retain the overall responsibility for the security. No doubt the responsibility for the life of the Israeli settlements, and the Israelis who live and move and work in the Gaza Strip.

[Ben-'Ami] The prime minister was asked to comment on the situation in the north, where Hizballah is continuing its attacks in the south Lebanon security zone. Rabin said there was no need to change Israel's current policy or activity in south Lebanon, although he would welcome a strong Lebanese Army deployment which would be able to assert control in the area north of the security zone.

[Rabin] The Lebanese Government wanted to deploy many more soldiers, Lebanese soldiers—and not 3,000—in the south, and under the pressure of Syria they could not deploy the number of Lebanese forces that they wanted to. And to be less polite, I would say that still Lebanon is in a way, a Syrian protectorate.

[Ben-'Ami] If the Lebanese Army were to disarm Hizballah, and prove it could control the area for several months, then Rabin said, the way to a peace agreement with Lebanon would be open. [passage omitted]

Comments on Importance of Security Zone

TA2408165793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that the concept supporting the significance of the security zone is correct. Mr. Rabin said this during a visit to Dayr al-Balah in the Gaza Strip, where he inaugurated a new water desalination plant. Our correspondent Ya'aqov Balsenboim reports:

[Begin recording] [Balsenboim] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin came to Dayr al-Balah to inaugurate a water desalination plant, but the correspondents asked Rabin about the situation in Lebanon and the peace talks, which are to resume next week. Referring to Lebanon, the prime minister said the concept supporting the significance of the security zone is correct:

[Rabin] I am convinced that the basic concept of the existence of the security zone is correct, and I want to stress this fact unequivocally. Hizballah does not pose a threat to Israel's existence, but rather a terrorist threat to the citizens living in the settlements along our border with Lebanon. The role of the security zone and its main test is to ensure peace and security in the northern settlements. It is the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] responsibility to accomplish this, and nobody in the northern settlements should feel bad about it. The IDF exists in order to provide security for the country and its citizens, wherever they may be.

[Balsenboim] Another round of peace talks is scheduled to resume next week. The prime minister was asked whether the struggle within the PLO leadership could harm the talks.

[Rabin] I do not recommend speculation about what is happening or not happening between the Palestinian residents of the territories, the delegation members, and others who do not reside here. The talks will be held, and to the best of my knowledge they will start on schedule. Hopefully this round will significantly promote the chances between us and the Palestinian delegation, as well as between us and the Syrians. [passage omitted]

Adviser Clarifies Remarks

TA2408171693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today explained at a meeting of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that he was referring to a withdrawal on the Golan Heights, and not from the Golan Heights.

Gad Ben-Ari, the prime minister's media adviser, said that the prime minister did not employ the expression full peace in exchange for full withdrawal on the Golan Heights, although one of the participants at the meeting claimed that this was the term he heard Mr. Rabin use. The prime minister was responding to Likud Knesset

Member Beni Begin's contention that equating the depth of Israel's withdrawal to the depth of peace was tantamount to a full withdrawal.

An inquiry conducted by our correspondent Yo'el Nir revealed that Mr. Rabin had sought to explain to the committee members that he was talking about a withdrawal on the Golan Heights and not from the Golan Heights.

Status of Gaza First, Talks With PLO Noted

TA2508112993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Aug 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, said in Amman yesterday that "within weeks" Israel is expected to agree to the idea of Gaza and Jericho First in the framework of a comprehensive plan for the interim stage. 'Abd- Rabbuh said that such an Israeli agreement would constitute a "historic achievement for the Palestinians."

Sources in the prime minister's bureau, however, doubt whether an agreement with the Palestinians over Gaza and Jericho First can be achieved. The sources said that this issue is not included in the directives to be issued to the Israeli peace delegation headed by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein. The sources added that Rubinstein will be asked to concentrate on the joint declaration of principles and early empowerment.

According to other reports, it is not even clear whether the Palestinian delegation will raise the issue of Gaza and Jericho First in the next round of talks scheduled for next Tuesday [31 August]. According to these reports, the upcoming discussions among the Palestinians are going to deal with the differences of opinion relating to the issues to be discussed in Washington. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said in Finland two days ago that a breakthrough on a package deal with the Palestinians is to be expected soon. Such a package deal apparently includes a general declaration of principles, the idea of Gaza and Jericho First, and early empowerment.

Over the last few months, Peres has been holding extensive direct and indirect talks with the PLO leadership and Palestinian leaders in the territories with a view of reaching an agreement on a "package deal" to include a general declaration of principles and agreement on the idea of Gaza and Jericho First.

Yesterday Peres denied the reports about a personal meeting he supposedly held in Stockholm with a senior PLO official. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin also told his associates he knows nothing about such a meeting.

Returning last night from Amsterdam, Peres said at Ben-Gurion Airport: "You want to know whom I met? Well, I will tell Rabin...."

The foreign minister's bureau reported it is unaware of any contacts held by Peres with the Palestinians. Such contacts are mostly conducted via the foreign minister's associates who are outside official government circles. They are also pursued in meetings by senior Foreign Ministry officials with Faysal al-Husayni and others. Egypt is also party to some of the contacts initiated by Peres.

The foreign minister's efforts are conducted simultaneously with the official negotiations in Washington, and are followed by few senior Foreign Ministry officials. With the exception of the prime minister, nobody in the prime minister's bureau is briefed about the details of these meetings. [passage omitted]

According to reports arriving in Jerusalem, the U.S. Administration intends to suggest, for the first time, the establishment of a joint Israeli-Palestinian-American committee for drafting a joint declaration of principles.

At the request of the United States, the negotiating parties will hold an additional day of talks on Monday, 13 September, two days before Rosh Hashana. Israel acquiesced to the U.S. request, despite the fact that this causes difficulties for some of the Israeli delegates.

Israel, for its part, asked the United States to enable talks to continue on Monday, 6 September, which is Labor Day. Israel requested that the negotiating rooms in the State Department remain open despite the holiday. [passage omitted]

Beilin on Talks With PLO, 11th Round Prospects

TA2508071593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning to you, Dr. Beilin.

[Beilin] Good morning.

[Qital] When there is infighting in the PLO, is this a good sign for the peace talks?

[Beilin] Formally, we do not hold negotiations with the PLO. At the same time, it is a little ridiculous that every time something happens in the PLO we rush to react as if this were the element with which we talk. So we better decide: If we hold negotiations with the PLO, then everything that happens there is important to us. If we hold negotiations with a Palestinian delegation that receives instructions and guidelines from the PLO, but not with the organization itself, then developments in this organization should interest us less.

[Qital] If we hold or do not hold talks with the PLO—it is you who should know this.

[Beilin] Well, it is clear we do not hold negotiations with the PLO as an organization. We hold negotiations with

people who are close to or affiliated with the PLO, who receive instructions from it. We have done so since October 1991, when the Likud government decided to talk with Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and others. This has been Israel's decision to date. Therefore, I do not think it is relevant to address ourselves to developments within an organization with which we do not negotiate.

[Qital] The recent reports about Shim'on Peres' meeting with a PLO personality in Scandinavia—do you back the denial issued?

[Beilin] Firmly. If the minister to whom I am subordinate was there and denied this, do you expect that I, in Israel, will not accept such a denial?

[Qital] A day or two have elapsed, and who knows—maybe circumstances have changed.

[Beilin] No. He clearly said the report was untrue, and this is indeed the case.

[Qital] On the peace talks themselves: Are we going to have the Jericho and Gaza First option?

[Beilin] This option was not discussed in the bilateral talks. It was discussed in other corridors and in the media, and was also mentioned orally, as an idea, by the Palestinians. The question is whether this subject will be raised by them in the talks which will begin in Washington at the end of this month. If it is raised, we will definitely take a very serious view of this proposal and will try to study it. So far, we have not received any details about this proposal: What the proposal exactly means; what Gaza First and Jericho First mean; how Jericho will function in the heart of the West Bank and how it will function as opposed to other places. This is surely up to the Palestinians though: If they raise this proposal, it will be discussed. It will not be we who propose that this idea be discussed in the next session.

[Qital] Does it seem that we are getting closer to an agreement this time, or will it be another round of talks in a series? How do matters look?

[Beilin] Look, it is very difficult to make promises ahead of time. Still, expectations are high. Some things have taken place since the last round, including Operation Accountability, the U.S. secretary's shuttle trip to the region, increasing pressure by radical elements in several countries in the Arab world, and tensions among the Palestinians. All this may lead to progress because, as I hope, everybody will understand that time is working against all those who desire peace in the Middle East. There are plenty of elements and circumstances that may prevent progress due to some negative development in the region. Therefore, those who want peace should do everything necessary to make rapid progress.

In theory, there is a chance for progress with the Lebanese now, and with the Syrians possibly too. The Jordanians are waiting for the others. If they see that progress is made with the others, they will increase the speed. They intentionally slowed the pace during the last round of talks so as not to be the first to reach an agreement. The Palestinians are always a big riddle—whether or not they will want to come with new proposals or ideas in order to promote the document of principles. It is worth remembering that we are still discussing an agenda for the negotiations, and the question is whether we will be able to determine the agenda during this upcoming round so that the negotiations can start in the following one. It is precisely due to the difficulties which have accumulated in recent months that I am optimistic that the sides who come for negotiations with us at the end of the month will be interested enough in finally reaching this stage of agreement on the issues for negotiation so that the negotiations themselves can start later.

[Qital] Dr. Yosi Beilin, the deputy foreign minister, thank you very much.

[Beilin] Thank you.

Discusses Gaza-Jericho Option

TA2508121993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says Israel has received no information about any changes in the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. This after a senior PLO official announced last night that the negotiating team will be reduced because of the serious financial crisis facing the organization. Beilin, in an interview with reporter Dick Winter, also denied that there are any policy differences between the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office on the Gaza and Jericho First proposal. Last night, Foreign Minister Peres reacted positively to the statement by spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi that the Palestinians are ready to negotiate seriously over the proposal, while Prime Minister Rabin has declined to comment on the possible inclusion of Jericho. Beilin said that despite the crisis in the Palestinian camp, Israel must remain consistent in its policy.

[Begin recording] [Beilin] We have to stick to the Madrid formula, under which we are meeting with Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza to talk about the interim solution. The interim solution is a self-government for the Palestinians for the coming five years. We will see on the 31st of August whether there are changes in their delegation. It is very important for us that there will be a counterpart. Until this very moment, we did not get any information about some changes, and what is very significant is that there is a readiness in the Arab world today to talk with us about peace in the Middle East. And I hope that in the 11th round, there will be some progress towards an agreement about the agenda in all the committees in order to begin the real talks about the negotiations for peace agreements with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, and the interim agreement with the Palestinians.

[Winter] What is exactly the position of the Government of Israel as regards the formula known as Gaza-Jericho

First. On one hand, the Foreign Ministry seems to be open to it. On the other hand, the prime minister seems to be saying no.

[Beilin] There is no dispute at all between the prime minister and the foreign minister about this question of Gaza First or Gaza and Jericho. The whole issue is not very clear. It was not raised until this very moment in the talks in Washington on the bilateral level. It is actually an accumulation of rumors, of side talks, of corridor talks with the Palestinians, directly with them, indirectly with them. If they decide to raise this issue during the 11th round in Washington, we will listen to them, we'll analyze this request, and decide whether to accept it or whether to negotiate about it. [end recording]

Tomorrow Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin will take part in consultations in Jerusalem on the forthcoming bilateral and multilateral talks on the peace process.

Ben-Eli'ezer on PLO Crisis, Peace Process

TA2508075993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Gay Zohar and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, good morning to you.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Good morning.

[Zohar] Does Israel have a position about the dire crisis in the PLO leadership?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] No. I do not think that there is a position, except for the well-known Israeli position. It seems to me that the problem today lies in the Palestinian camp. I think that the PLO has reached a crisis today, perhaps the worst it has ever experienced. It has to decide about its leadership and future road.

[Zohar] Do you share the view though, that the reason for the crisis is basically economic?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Among other things, yes. The Tunis PLO leadership had kept the organization intact most of the time. Alongside the ideology this was also thanks to their ability to funnel money to the territories and to all PLO branches wherever they may be. Money plays a very important role. One cannot sustain an ideology, especially in such movements as the PLO, without controlling the tap of money.

At the moment, the feeling is that the PLO is losing control. One should not get too excited as a result though. In my opinion, the basic premise Israel has always adhered to is that our commitment to the peace process means sitting together with the Palestinian delegation from the territories. Sitting down with this delegation should be our guideline. I follow the situation closely. I hope that even if the local Palestinian delegation does not enjoy absolute authority in conducting the peace talks, it will at least have such a level of coordination that Tunis will not disturb it.

[Dan] The question is whether closely following the situation should not be replaced by Israeli preparations for a possible change in the PLO leadership.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Look, we do not have control over this after all. We are following the situation, but what interests us ultimately is one thing only: Who is going to sit opposite us and what we are discussing....

[Zohar, interrupting] But we should have somebody who can talk, to begin with.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Absolutely. After all, what has happened to date? The situation so far was very interesting. We initially encouraged the Palestinian delegation, but very quickly reached the conclusion, due to the strains developing between the territories' Palestinians and the PLO-Tunis, that the Palestinian delegation could not bring anything to the negotiating table. Some of us pointed to the PLO then. I said alright, let us have it, but what use was there to the PLO—as you could see for yourselves—if three quarters of the PLO leadership favored the process but somebody there still restrained it? The conclusion then was: Yasir 'Arafat is the address. What is there to discuss with 'Arafat then?—a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, and the right of return! All along 'Arafat based his leadership, among other things, on absolute control of funds, of the economic side. He does not have this today, and this triggered the fights, over the leadership primarily, in my opinion.

[Dan] Political achievements by 'Arafat, such as an Israeli agreement to the Gaza and Jericho First ideas, as raised in the talks currently—can they save his leadership?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] To the best of my judgment, we are, first and foremost, committed to Israel's security, and to our promise to the public to accelerate the political process. Entering or accelerating the political process must not come at the expense of Israel's security though. Why do I say this? My problem is not one of helping 'Arafat or Faysal al-Husayni. My problem is to what extent do I help the State of Israel and enhance its security? To what extent should I sit down and discuss political issues so as to bring about an agreement on one proposal or another?

[Zohar] Still, you are aware that the Gaza and Jericho First matter features prominently in the argument within the PLO leadership, dividing it into camps, and the question is what Israel's attitude toward it is.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Look, I think this matter is not relevant yet. As far as Gaza is concerned, I believe there is a national and not just a government consensus. I believe this is not relevant for Jericho though, nor was it raised at the negotiating table. I was one of those who opposed the Jericho First idea and said so publicly, too. But I did not reject anything for discussion. The question at the

moment is who we are talking with: Are we talking with the local Palestinian leadership? Are we talking with a Palestinian leadership which is or is not coordinated with the PLO? There should first be order in their camp here, and only then will we know who we talk with and what we talk about.

[Dan] Would Israel prefer to see 'Arafat continue as the PLO's leader?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Israel would prefer to sit opposite the Palestinian leadership in the territories, largely because we are fully convinced that the territories' public knows Israel, grew alongside it, and still keeps its independent thought processes. It is still the PLO for all intents and purposes almost, but we are at least referring to a public which has the potential of being, if not more moderate then at least more pragmatic and apprehensive than all the PLO groups, about the time constraints which the PLO is facing today.

[Zohar] Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, thank you very much.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Thank you.

IDF To Detain, Interrogate Deportees Upon Return

TA2408135293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The deportees who will return to Israel early next month will be detained for interrogation in detention facilities in Israel immediately upon their return. This was said a short time ago by Brigadier General Moti Biran, the provost marshal general, in a special briefing to military correspondents. Brig. Gen. Biran says the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is presently preparing the detention and interrogation facilities for receiving the deportees. Our military affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports that the return of the first group of deportees has been brought forward by several days. The IDF is currently conducting staff work to work out the details of this return process.

Gur Rebuffs Attack on Chief of Staff

PM2508080093 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 24 Aug 93 p15

[Interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur by Alberto Stabile in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] Jerusalem—Such a ferocious attack on the Israeli Army top brass had not been seen since the days of the Yom Kippur War, when the upper echelons of the Tsahal [Israeli Army] were accused of negligence and fired. But in ultraconservative former premier Yitzhaq Shamir's view, current Chief of Staff Ehud Barak did something far worse in the latest Lebanese crisis.

According to Shamir, the general sacrificed security problems on the altar of politics. Instead of "finding a solution to terrorism," Shamir said accusingly, "he sang Syrian President al-Asad's praises," calling him a "serious and responsible" adversary. Is that how you speak of "Israel's principal foe"? In short, Barak should not keep his job a minute longer.

After a broadside of that sort, it was inevitable that a storm should follow. Premier Yitzhaq Rabin and Head of State Ezer Weizman took the field to defend Barak, while [Environmental Protection] Minister Yosi Sarid accused Shamir of "stirring up a military uprising, some might say a putsch." But behind the former premier's words there may just lurk a desperate maneuver by the right, which, terrified by the prospect of an agreement over the Golan, is ready to play the wrecker's card.

We asked Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur, one of the most popular commanders of the Six-Day war, whether, first of all, Ehud Barak overstepped the mark when he spoke in that way about al-Asad.

"What the chief of staff said," he answered, "constitutes an objective, intelligent assessment which has nothing to do with politics. That politicians should use it for their own purposes is very serious."

[Stabile] But is the Israeli Army not too involved in the domestic debate?

[Gur] Not at all. The chief of staff is the liaison between tactics and strategy, between the government's orientation and requirements in the field. It has always been that way throughout our history. That is why it sometimes looks as though what he says is linked to foreign policy issues. But there is no immediate link with politics in what Barak said.

[Stabile] Do you share his appreciation of the Syrian leadership?

[Gur] I said, as long ago as 1988 that there was a change in Syrian policy. Damascus understood that war leads nowhere and only a political agreement can resolve the area's problems. I think Syria still holds that view. Naturally, that does not mean that we are prepared to do whatever they want.

[Stabile] But what is your answer to the opposition, which is asking for Barak's head following the death of nine soldiers in South Lebanon?

[Gur] I say that the opposition's demands are shameful and I hope this speculation soon ends.

[Stabile] After the latest Hizballah attack, one got the impression that you were caught off your guard. Did you perhaps overrate the cease-fire agreement reached with Syria and Lebanon on 31 July?

[Gur] No. Nobody here in the Defense Ministry, including the military, expected Hizballah to stop its activities; that was not the agreement reached at the end of Operation "Settling Scores." [as published] So there was no surprise. Sadly, this time, the bomb caused a huge amount of damage, a real disaster. That happens from

time to time. But that has nothing to do with general strategy. Sometimes you fail, sometimes you succeed.

[Stabile] And yet, according to some people, there were mistakes and underestimation in the way the operation was conducted.

[Gur] The Army is still checking all the details, but there was no underestimation. I was there when the soldiers came back from the operation, and, from my viewpoint, most of the things went just fine. It was only one of the bad days which have occurred in our history. We must give each other strength, not commiserate with each other.

[Stabile] Will there be further retaliation against Hizballah for that attack?

[Gur] I will not answer that question.

[Stabile] What does Rabin mean when he says that the Army must adapt to Hizballah's way of fighting?

[Gur] That is exactly what we are doing all the time. We monitor daily how they behave on the terrain and act accordingly. That way we update our strategy.

[Stabile] People are now talking about a "war of attrition" against the fundamentalist groups. Can you explain what is meant by that?

[Gur] War of attrition is a term used during the Suez crisis and after the Six-Day war. It means that the war will continue with the aim of forcing the other side to give up from exhaustion. I can assure you that we will not be the ones to give up.

[Stabile] Do you confirm that you will not strike at civilian targets in South Lebanon?

[Gur] I do not confirm anything. We will use any strategy necessary. Naturally, we are aware of the limits of a war taking place among the population. We do not want to hit the population, but we wish to maximize our freedom to act.

[Stabile] The Israeli Government appears to have switched its sights from Syria to Iran. Do you consider Iran's influence in the region more dangerous than Syria's?

[Gur] Both dangers are very serious. The Syrians are nearer. Their influence is greater, and they control everything Hizballah does. With the Iranians we have a big problem, but the danger is less pressing. We have to take the influence of both into consideration in the battle against Hizballah.

Update on Intifadah Incidents 25 Aug

TA2508131693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] A firebomb was thrown at noon today at a military vehicle in Nabulus. Nobody was hurt, but the car was slightly damaged.

In the village of Abu-Dis, a car bearing Israeli license plates ran a Border Police roadblock. The policemen opened fire, but the car fled. The Army has placed roadblocks in the area.

Walid Muhammad Yusuf was murdered last night in Qabatiyah, apparently on suspicion of collaborating with the authorities.

South African Expelled; 'Very Tense' Ties Reported

TA2508143193 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Aug 93 pp 1, 15

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpts] A South African national, who was suspected of acting against state security, was recently deported from Israel.

Nozivo Mayekiso was deported by the Interior Ministry after the Shin Bet reported its suspicions against him.

Our political correspondent has learned that the issue has caused tension between Israel and the Republic of South Africa [RSA]. Israeli Ambassador Alon Li'el was summoned to Derek Evert, the South African Foreign Ministry's assistant director general [name and title as published].

Another problem has also been marring Israeli-RSA relations. Authorities in Pretoria suspect that an additional Israeli defense establishment representative, who was stationed in South Africa until recently, illegally took money out of that country to Israel. [passage omitted]

The relations between the RSA and Israeli Governments have been very tense over an additional issue: The heads of the white regime believe that Israel has been deliberately ignoring the present government, favoring its ties with the African National Congress, which represents the black majority.

Further on Visit by PLO's 'Arafat, Delegation

Confers With King 24 Aug

JN2408150393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received His Excellency Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation at the Royal Hashemite Court today. They reviewed several issues of common interest.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed the current status of the peace process on the eve of the 11th round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks. They also examined the steps taken to enhance Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, as well as the means of advancing inter-Arab coordination.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali; Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, the Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh; Bashir al-Barghuthi, [the leader of the Palestinian People's Party]; and Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim.

His Majesty King Husayn and his excellency the Palestinian president also held a closed meeting, during which they discussed the terms and conditions that must be met by all parties to contribute to advancing the peace process.

Holds Talks With Prime Minister

JN2408183993 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpt] The Jordanian side, headed by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and the Palestinian side, headed by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, resumed their talks at the Prime Ministry this evening. They hope to complete discussions on the basis and ground rules governing joint coordination and the future outlook of Jordanian-Palestinian ties, and review the outcome of the meetings held by the joint committees created by the Higher Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee, which met in Amman last month.

The Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for Economic Affairs held its first meeting at the Foreign Ministry today. The conferees discussed the topics listed on the committee meeting's agenda. The recommendations endorsed will be submitted to the Higher Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee. This committee is one of the six committees created by the Higher Committee, which met in Amman last month. [passage omitted]

Need for United Stance Stressed

JN2408191293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The Jordanian and Palestinian sides resumed their talks at the Prime Ministry this evening to complete their discussion of the basis and ground rules governing joint coordination between the two sides, as well as the current and future outlook of Jordanian-Palestinian ties. The also reviewed the outcome of the meetings of the joint committees being held in Amman within the framework of the Higher Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali led the Jordanian side to the talks; President Yasir 'Arafat headed the Palestinian side of the talks. During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments in the peace process in light of the current state of affairs and the positions of the parties concerned.

The two sides stressed the need to unify the Arab position during the peace talks, particularly during the 11th round of the Arab- Israeli peace talks, which is set to convene in Washington on Tuesday [31 August]. This will be decided by the foreign ministers of the Arab states concerned with the peace process, who will hold a coordination meeting in Beirut on Friday [27 August] to agree on a common Arab strategy to be pursued during this round—one that falls in line with UN resolutions and ensures the restoration of the Arabs usurped, legitimate rights, which were recognized by the international community.

The Jordanian side to the talks included Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwwar; Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs; and Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs. The Palestinian side to the talks included PLO Executive Committee members Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Yasir 'Amr, and Sulayman al-Najjab; Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, the head of the PLO Economic Department; and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Talks Termed 'Very Constructive'

JN2408195993 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Statements by Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali following their meeting in Amman on 24 August—recorded]

[Text] ['Arafat] We can say that we are very happy with these very warm, and very important, and very constructive talks and meeting with his majesty in the morning and in which we had discussed briefly all our issues, joint issues, and, in the same time, the peace talks and the options which we are facing in all directions. And, we agreed upon to continue in coordination on all levels.

[Al-Majali] In these meetings, we try always to put all points right on the table and try to analyze the negative and the positive of every point, and try to make both clear, both sides to clear our mind about any of these things, each one stand towards that point. Wherever we can make these stands absolutely one stand, we will do it. Otherwise, we'll at least appreciate and accept and respect other people's point of view on that same point.

[Jordan Television Correspondent Maha al-Sha'ir] Regarding the issue of withdrawal from—Israeli withdrawal from Jericho and Gaza— what do you think? What does Jordan think of this stand?

[Al-Majali] The information about such an offer is not yet concrete, so we cannot make a definite decision.

'Arafat on 'Warm' Talks With King

JN2508065293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat described the talks he held this morning with His Majesty King Husayn as fruitful, positive, and constructive, stressing that the two sides agreed to continue coordination at all levels to rescue the Palestinian people from Israeli occupation.

Following a working meeting of more than two hours at the Prime Ministry this evening, in which the Jordanian side was led by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and the Palestinian side by President Yasir 'Arafat, 'Arafat said in a statement: I discussed with His Majesty King Husayn all joint issues, including the peace process and all our options. He added: I can proudly and amicably say my meeting with His Majesty King Husayn was a fraternal and warm meeting. We discussed basic issues dealing with bilateral relations, the future of the occupied territories, and how we can rescue them from the claws of the Israeli occupation through a joint effort, more steadfastness by our people in the occupied territories, and more persistence in the peace process in which we agreed to take part.

The Palestinian president urged all concerned parties, including the cosponsors of the peace conference, to play their role in advancing the peace process in order to reach a just and comprehensive solution that takes into consideration the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, as well as pan-Arab rights, foremost of which is holy Jerusalem. This is not only a Palestinian question but is a Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and Christian question. He added: If Jerusalem stands as a red line for the others, it is also a red line for us.

President 'Arafat hailed the historical cohesion between the Jordanian and the Palestinian peoples, stressing that they are one people who will be linked with a joint confederation that will be based on the free choice of the two fraternal peoples.

Answering a question on the discussion of the Gaza-Jericho first proposal during the Jordanian-Palestinian meetings, President 'Arafat said: The Jordanian and Palestinian sides discussed all proposals presented by the Israelis. We are working with the Jordanians as one team, not two.

Answering a question posed by the Jordanian News Agency on the proposal of setting up a Palestinian national salvation government, called for by some Palestinian figures, President 'Arafat said: Regrettably, there are several attempts by many quarters, in which international organs take part, to create some problems at every moment and from time to time, but these attempts will not affect our march.

Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee Meets 24 Aug

JN2408162893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for Economic Affairs, one of the six committees created by the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee, held its first meeting at the Foreign Ministry in Amman this morning.

Marwan Dudin, head of the Jordanian delegation to the committee meetings, spoke to our radio on this meeting, saying:

[Begin recording] As a matter of fact, from the outset, there has been an agreement on the committee's tasks, and also on the overall topics the committee will address in its meetings. It has been agreed that during the first phase of the committee's work, emphasis will be placed on the activities carried out by the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to the peace talks with Israel. This is so that discussion of certain topics, such as the possible reopening of Jordanian bank branches in the West Bank and commodity movement from the West Bank to the East Bank and vice versa, will be agreed upon at all stages. Of course, we found that our brothers in the Palestinian side were fully appreciative of Jordan's role in advancing the peace talks. It is hoped that it will be possible, at a later stage, to hold talks between representatives of the Jordanian Government and representatives of the interim Palestinian national government. We hope that this will take place in the near future, God willing. [end recording]

In a related development, the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations on the Territory and Border Committee have discussed the basics of the committee's work and its tasks. The two sides agreed to maintain their coordination, to continue to hold consultations with one another, and to convene meetings for the committee whenever necessary.

Meeting Termed 'Positive'

JN2508104993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Aug 93 p 1, 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Two joint Jordanian-Palestinian committees entrusted with the task of working out short-term and long-range aspects of cooperation and coordination between the two banks of the River Jordan Tuesday held their first meeting and a senior official said the discussions went well.

Marwan Dudin, a member of the Jordanian delegation to peace talks with Israel and a former minister, described the meeting of the committee on economic cooperation as positive.

"We found a very optimistic futuristic outlook among our counterparts," said Dr. Dudin, who headed an eight-member Jordanian team to the meeting.

The other committee which met Tuesday will deal with security and border affairs. The Jordanian side to the talks was headed by Major-General Tahsin Shurdum and the Palestinian side was led by Ziyad Abu-Ziyad.

No details were available on this committee's talks. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the two sides agreed to "pursue coordination and consultations and to meet whenever the need arises."

The two committees are among six panels set up last month, the other four deal with refugee affairs, water, armament and regional security and the environment. It was not known when these committees will meet.

Dr. Dudin said issues discussed at the economic forum, held at the Foreign Ministry, included possibility of reopening Jordanian commercial banks in the occupied territories and trade between the East and West Banks of the river.

Dr. Dudin said the discussions focused on economic cooperation in phases: "The phase between now and the beginning of the (interim) Palestinian self-rule period and the phase after that, when, hopefully the Palestinians will have sovereignty over their economic affairs."

"Sky will be the ceiling for Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation after the Palestinians regain their complete rights," said Dr. Dudin.

According to Dr. Dudin, the Palestinian side is highly interested in seeing Jordanian banks reopen their branches in the occupied territories during the interim period.

Repeated reports have said that at least one bank is poised to reopen four of its branches in the occupied West Bank, but senior Jordanian officials say it is premature to reach such a conclusion since several fundamental issues remain unaddressed.

Mr. Dudin reaffirmed this position and said Jordan would consider the issue against the backdrop of conditions and prerequisites that Israel seeks to impose.

"It is only natural that the Palestinians feel they have to get out of the economic grip of Israel," said Dr. Dudin. "They are not only imprisoned physically but also economically."

The Israelis are trying to ensure that the Palestinians' economic dependence on the Jewish state is retained regardless of their status, and Jordan as well as the Palestinians are well aware of it, he added.

Another issue on the table was trade between the West and East Banks, he said, noting that the Palestinians exported between $30 million and $75 million worth of goods—mainly agricultural produce, marble and stones—to Jordan every year.

"But exports from the East Bank to the Palestinians are nil since the occupation authorities do not permit the Palestinians to buy Jordanian goods," he said. "This is an area which we have to look into."

Dr. Dudin described the Jordanian team in the economic committee as "high calibre."

It includes the secretaries-general of the ministries of planning and finance, the director-general of the Social Security Corporation, senior Foreign Ministry official Nabil Shuqum and Audit Bureau Chief Adil al-Qudah as well as a senior official from the Central Bank of Jordan.

Yusuf al-Sayigh, head of the executive Palestinian side in the committee, could not attend the meeting because of "logistical problems related to travel," Dr. Dudin said.

Dr.al-Sayigh is based in Tunis and is an advisor to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He also heads the Palestinian side in the working committee on regional economic cooperation which is part of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process.

PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab, head of the Palestinian side in the committee, did not attend the meeting, among those attending were Samir Barghuti, Samir Hulaylah, 'Atf 'Alawinah and Mahmud Okasheh.

Dr. Dudin said a World Bank report on the Palestinian economy or a similar document reportedly drawn up by Harvard University experts in cooperation with regional experts were not and would not be part of the discussions of the economic committees.

In general terms, "it was a highly positive meeting and we exchanged views as the first step towards continuing consultations and coordination," he said.

'Intensive' Activity at 11th Round Expected

JN2403080993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Aug 93 pp 1, 22

[By Hamdan al-Hajj]

[Text] Marwan Dudin, deputy head of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations, expects the 11th round of negotiations, scheduled for the end of August, to witness intensive activity on the Palestinian-Israeli and Syrian-Israeli tracks.

He said the Jordanian delegation will act in light of a possible agreement on a declaration of principles or endorsement of working agenda for future rounds, taking

into consideration Jordan's national interests, Palestinian interests, and higher Arab interests.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, Dudin said each Arab party considers the fact that the ultimate, hoped-for solution should be comprehensive. To put it differently, each Arab party is working hard to achieve progress on its own track, while observing the other tracks, so that, in the event of progress in the negotiating process as a whole, no one party would work out a separate solution without the other parties reaching similar arrangements.

Dudin pointed out that the Jordanian delegation will leave for Washington once a decision is made by the foreign ministers of the cordon states taking part in the peace process. The Jordanian delegation will go to Washington with an unchanging conception concerning serious participation in the peacemaking process through implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

He said the Jordanian negotiating team is fully aware that the Palestine question is the crux of the conflict, and that the objective of the negotiating process at this point is to achieve progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track, to be accepted by Palestinian negotiators.

Dudin said the next round will be short, in view of certain time limitations. The round will last for two weeks during which no more than six sessions on each track will be held.

Israel Causing 'Serious' Jordan River Pollution

JN2508120593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Aug 93 p 27

[By Hani al-Dduwayk]

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Wishah, secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority, has held Israel responsible for serious pollution of the Jordan River.

Dr. Wishah told AL-DUSTUR that Israeli practices have turned the water of the Jordan River into water that cannot be used for any purpose. Israel uses the river to dump all sorts of wastes, particularly saline water from the Tiberias Sea in northern Palestine, by pumping this water into the river in order not to affect the water it collects in the lake, then it changes the course of saline water from the Jordan River to the Negev.

He added: We have evidence that Israeli authorities use the river to dump industrial waste and sewage water. This has led to serious pollution. Now, the only water in the river is waste water and water from brackish springs.

He added that not a single drop of water from Tiberias is allowed into the Jordan River, and this has made the water of the river unsuitable for any purpose.

He said the main sources are from the Hasbani, Baniyas, and al- Liddani, and Israel takes the water from these sources before reaching the Jordan River.

AFP has reported from occupied Jerusalem that the Israeli Natural Resources Administration said yesterday that pollution in the Jordan River caused by sewage water has exceeded the levels allowed for swimming by two and a half points.

The agency said the Israeli Health Ministry has announced that swimming in the river is prohibited.

Invitation to Beirut Coordination Meeting Received

JN2508055893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Jordan has received an official invitation from the Lebanese Government to take part in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the parties to the peace process, which will be held in Beirut next Friday [27 August].

This was announced last night by Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, in reply to a question posed by the Jordanian News Agency. He said the Beirut meeting is a link in the chain of joint coordination between the parties to the peace process. At the Beirut meeting, he emphasized, Jordan will reiterate its basic constants on the peace process, with the aim of restoring the legitimate rights of the Arab nation and realizing its joint objectives.

Answering a question, he said: As usual, the delegations taking part in the meeting will make an accurate analysis of the peace process and the prospects for the next round within the framework of a comprehensive and just solution.

King Mediating Turkey-Syria-Iraq Water Dispute

JN2308081693 Al-Shariqah AL-SHURUQ in Arabic 19-25 Aug 93 p 8

[Text] Knowledgeable Jordanian sources have confirmed Jordan is mediating between Syria and Iraq on the one hand and Turkey on the other, to find a solution to the problem of sharing water from the Euphrates. The problem first arose in the second half of the seventies and got worse over the past two years with Turkey constructing several dams preventing water from reaching its two neighboring countries in the summer.

The sources said King Husayn of Jordan raised the issue with Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, who visited Jordan last month, and asked him to convey a message to Turkish President Suleyman Demirel. King Husayn also paid a 48-hour visit to Turkey on 8 August and managed to contain an imminent dispute between Damascus and Ankara over water cutoff from Syria.

The sources added that King Husayn talked Turkey into releasing a certain amount of water and agreeing to hold

a meeting for the joint tripartite committee at the level of foreign ministers by the end of August.

King Leaves for Oman on 'Brief Private Visit'

JN2408144593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] With God's care and blessings, His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for Muscat this afternoon on a brief private visit to the Sultanate of Oman. During his visit he will hold consultations with his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman on bilateral ties, as well as regional and international developments.

His Highness Prince Muhammad Bin-Talal, the personal representative of his majesty the king, was sworn in as regent before his majesty the king during the king's stay abroad. Cabinet ministers attended the oath-taking ceremony.

His majesty the king was seen off at the airport by His Highness Prince Muhammad, His Highness Prince Faysal Bin-al-Husayn, and His Highness Prince 'Ali Bin-al-Husayn. Also on hand at the airport to see his majesty the king off were Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, and Chief Chamberlain His Highness Prince Ra'd Bin-Zayd. His Highness Prince 'Ali Bin-Nayif, the private secretary of his majesty the king; the chief of the Royal Household; advisers to his majesty the king; cabinet ministers; the Amman mayor; the Amman governor; the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the director of the General Intelligence Department; the director of the Public Security Department; the chief of staff of the Air Force Corps; several civic and military officials; and the Omani ambassador to Jordan also bid the king farewell.

Prince Hasan Meets With Gulf Media Representatives

JN2008203493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has said the difficult circumstances and challenges our Arab nation is experiencing prompt us all to contemplate the magnitude of these difficulties. This came when his highness received Gulf media representatives in Jordan.

In this meeting, his highness listened to the journalists' remarks and opinions on inter-Arab relations and the scope of cooperation designed to achieve a real return to coordination and realize a model of joint Arab action. His highness reviewed Arab and international developments, and the difficult circumstances and challenges being experienced by the Arab and Islamic nation. These challenges prompt everyone to contemplate the magnitude of the difficulties and challenges that began with the Gulf crisis. The repercussions of these challenges have been remarkably constant, he added.

His highness urged honorable, sincere writers in the Arab homeland to circumvent the trenches and prior positions, and to contribute to healing the Arab rift.

[Begin Prince Hasan recording] I affirm my admiration for the definite desire by a wide sector of citizens in the Gulf and, of course, Jordan, to deal with the matter of understanding our joint issues. Speaking of reaching an understanding on these issues, we would like to affirm that the world will not wait for long for us to recall our regional identity, which shows solidarity in view of what is happening in this world. Naturally, we should remember that there is a regional character for all world regions. [end recording]

His highness touched on his recent visit to the fraternal State of Qatar and the good results implied in terms of Jordan's determination to realize wider scopes of joint Arab action.

[Begin Hasan recording] I hope the idea of the call, the call of the intellectuals—and, of course, intellectuals from all Arab states directly concerned with this issue—will be an idea that will support the general approach. In brief, this approach creates a framework for security cooperation, as I previously said. Here, in fact, I call on Arab writers, whoever and wherever they may be, to contribute to this important project. [end recording]

His highness frankly and clearly answered questions posed by the journalists. An open dialogue was held on all issues related to Arab cooperation and coordination.

[Begin Hasan recording] Once again, I welcome you as representatives of news agencies in states whose sovereignty we respect, and whose status we greatly appreciate. We dealt with these states and supported them in joint ordeals throughout the decades. I welcome you in the framework of the renewed awareness by the citizen here on the Jordanian street about the importance of having a comprehensive view of our relations with all brothers. [end recording]

King Husayn Planning Tour of Southeast Asia

NC2308122793 Paris AFP in English 0921 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Amman, Aug 23 (AFP)—King Husayn of Jordan said Monday he was to embark on a tour of five southeast Asian countries at the end of August, including China and North Korea.

Jordan has "close relations with China, a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council," said the king, who last visited Beijing 10 years ago.

King Husayn also told AFP he would make his first visit to North Korea in response to a long-standing invitation. Japan, Thailand and Singapore were the other stops on the tour, he said, without giving dates.

Washington has launched a campaign to isolate communist Pyongyang, which it suspects of developing a nuclear programme and aiding arms proliferation in the Middle East.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said earlier this month that North Korea had delivered sophisticated Scud-C missiles to Syria, and possibly Iran.

Canadian Hails Jordanian Role in Peace Process

JN2108182793 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, met this evening at the Foreign Ministry with (Mark Pirron), Canadian deputy secretary of state for Middle Eastern and African affairs, who is supervising the group on refugees at the multilateral negotiations.

During the meeting, al-Hasan reviewed the latest developments in the peace process, affirming Jordan's constant, principled commitment to this process in line with the foundations on which it was launched. These foundations are represented in the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as the principle of land for peace, Israel's withdrawal from all of the Arab territories it is occupying, and ensuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people over all of their national soil.

Al-Hasan expressed appreciation for Canada's role in the multilateral talks, especially its sponsoring of the working group on refugees. The minister emphasized Jordan's major, central role as a factor of stability and security in the region and in the peace process, in its bilateral and multilateral aspects.

For his part, (Pirron) praised Jordan's effective, positive role in the region and in the peace process in its bilateral and multilateral aspects. He noted that the multilateral talks complement, and are not a substitute for, the bilateral talks.

King Blamed for House Dissolution Decision

JN2308120493 Amman NIDA' AL-WATAN in Arabic 19 Aug 93 p 7

["Under the Microscope" column by Majid 'Abd-al-Hadi: "Excuse Me, Your Majesty.."]

[Text] Were it not for the fact that my question to the prime minister in this column last week has gone unanswered, I would have taken my cue from some parliamentary deputies who met last Tuesday at esteemed member Layth Shubaylat's office. What they did was to take Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali's government to task for dissolving the House of Representatives, while the truth is that the disbandment was decreed by his majesty the king.

If it were not for the king's liberal outlook and political shrewdness, which must be credited for the country's shift toward democracy and human rights, I would have kept mum. Alternatively, I would have limited myself to whispers in closed political fora or settled for a less delicate topic—say railing against the negotiating Palestinian team, or the elegant hairdo of Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi or the "first Palestinian lady" Suha al-Tawil 'Arafat.

However, democracy being what it is, it is only right that the truth be told. It is the king, ladies and gentlemen, who dissolved the House of Representatives, invoking a Constitutional privilege, which this column is not the right forum to analyze. Having endorsed the option of free speech and a plurality of opinion encompassing the whole gamut of the political spectrum, surely, the king must have bargained for divergent perceptions of such a weighty matter. Nor would he have failed to predict the sensible objections that would be raised about the dissolution implications, particularly since the measure would bear on the projected amendment to the electoral law and the negotiating process with Israel.

It makes no sense to hold the government responsible for something over which it had little control. Is it the case, then, that disgruntled political parties and deputies leveled their criticisms at Dr. al-Majali in their belief that he is more amenable to opposition than his majesty, or that they found in his weak government the fig leaf to conceal their perennial fear of crossing the red lines?

The time is past when anyone could claim that his were absolute truths. The days are gone when to disagree meant the same thing as to damn or that a dissenter would be a legitimate target for intelligence services or would forfeit his basic rights. Besides, a given human course of action allows for a margin of error, and as humans none of us are infallible. Hence, no harm will be done if one or other of the country's political groups came forward and informed the king that they did not see eye to eye with his majesty on such and such an issue. His majesty has come to represent a common denominator for the various hues of Jordan's political spectrum, and here the Constitution is the highest point of reference.

Thus, ladies and gentlemen, it is to his majesty the king rather than the government that we must say that the disbandment of the House has created a constitutional void, which it will use to bypass the legislative branch and amend the electoral law to its satisfaction. Let us also make the point that the one person-one vote amendment might prove deleterious to the cause of national unity, and fuel regional-based tendencies, sectarianism, tribalism, and factionalism. Not to mention the fact that the move was a case of the executive branch violating the principle of the separation of powers by usurping a legislative branch right. Let the majority of the licensed political parties come out against the manner in which the amendment was introduced. Let us hope that these will call for a general nationwide debate before an amendment is made. Let all of us say all that there is to be said as we endeavor to safeguard our democratic enterprise and insure it against setbacks.

It is hoped that we and his majesty will arrive at a consensus that should steer us away from pitfalls and provide for the Arabs a new example of the usefulness of dialogue and the virtues of true democracy.

Government Charges Paper With Press Law Violations

JN2108193693 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 18 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] While AL-BILAD was being put to bed, the Prosecution Department delivered a court order asking two of our colleagues, Nayif al-Turah and Ra'id Salihah, to appear before the Amman Public Prosecutor, 'Isam Brayk, on Tuesday, 17 August 1993, to look into a charge against AL-BILAD brought by the government, represented by the Press and Publication Department, against the backdrop of several stories the paper has recently published, including a story on southern Jordan.

This case is one of three referred to the public prosecutor by the Information Ministry, charging AL-BILAD with violating Press and Publication Law.

It is worth noting that a dispute has developed between al-Turah and the information minister, which prompted al-Turah to send two memorandums to the prime minister, explaining what happened when he met the information minister, and asking the prime minister to protect the newspaper from what the information minister is contemplating against it.

AL-BILAD can do nothing except obey the orders of the judicial system, because it has absolute confidence in its fairness and integrity.

Brotherhood Claims Exemption From Elections Ban

JN2408110093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Aug 93 pp 1, 22

[By Mahir Abu-Tayr]

[Text] An authorized source within the Muslim Brotherhood has told AL-DUSTUR that the decision issued by Muhammad al-Suqur, minister of social development, banning voluntary groups from interfering in the upcoming parliamentary elections, either financialy, morally, or via any kind of facility, has no relation whatsoever to the Muslim Brotherhood, which originally was registered as a society and is excluded from the ban.

He noted to AL-DUSTUR: The Muslim Brotherhood was registered as the Muslim Brotherhood Society in accordance with the Ottoman societies law. In the 1940s, the cabinet issued a registration decision which, at the time, was based on the Ottoman societies law. Therefore, the Muslim Brotherhood Society has comprehensive, not just voluntary interests, as some believe. Originally, it was not registered on this basis. The decision to register the Muslim Brotherhood was granted by the cabinet and not by the Ministry of Social Development.

The decision bans voluntary societies from offering any facilities to candidates, whether these facilities are current and direct, or offering services such as transportation for candidates or using the headquarters of these societies to practice election propaganda. Many questions were raised about the Muslim Brotherhood and if the ban applies to them.

In another development, the same authorized source within the Muslim Brotherhood told AL-DUSTUR that the Islamic Center Society [Jam'iyat al-Markaz al-Islami] is not primarily involved in any political or elections activities and will continue in this line. The source added: In my capacity as one of those in charge of the Islamic Center Society's activities, I reaffirm that our activities are focused on voluntary aspects in three fields: the social, health, and educational fields. We will not allow any infringement that would make the Islamic Center Society practice any political, party, or elections activities. We have always been like this and we will continue on this line.

One Person-One Vote Election System Analyzed

JN2108131893 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Aug 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—The introduction of a one-person, one-vote formula to the election process has confused the campaign plans of some political parties and is likely to produce unexpected winners in the Nov. 8 legislative elections, observers and commentators say.

The new temporary election law will require political parties and groups to consolidate efforts in order to ensure their candidates receive the highest number of votes at the polls in November.

Analaysts and observers believe that political parties on the right, left or centre of the political spectrum will have to, first, consolidate efforts in each district in order to get one candidate from their political spectrum elected; and, second, to consider tribal and sectarian voting elements in each district before choosing their candidates; and, third, to consider having intra- party or coalition primaries in order to reduce the number of candidates vying for each seat.

"The one-person, one-vote formula will strengthen those candidates with popular base and those to whom tribal support is assured," said one leftist commentator after the new election law was made public last Tuesday.

"This tribal support can also be forthcoming in terms of regional origin—it is not restricted to tribes as such," added the leftist commentator referring to popular support accorded to Palestinian candidates in areas like the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth districts in Amman Governorate.

"The 'Palestinian issue' is big in areas such as the Third District of Amman in which either Jordanians of prominent West Bank origin or Jordanians with a historical involvement in the Palestine cause are more likely to get votes than elsewhere will be elected," said the leftist commentator.

With the one-person, one-vote formula, however, votes would be split among what are expected to be up to some 20 candidates per legislative seat. Some political observers believe that even in traditionally liberal voting areas, tribal or regional orientation could define the outcome of the elections rather than political programmes or platforms.

"Traditionally the first priority of any voter goes to the family, tribe, fellow-townsfolk and the like; the second vote goes to the political programme, party and so-forth," explained a minister in the current government. "The first vote in the upcoming elections will be the only vote," he added referring to the one vote allocated to each voter.

Fearing that tribal or clan-voting patterns will dominate the voting trend in all of Jordan's 20-voting districts, political observers believe that political parties and coalitions will have to discipline their members and field their strongest candidate in each district and prevent any rival candidate, who may belong to the same political group and social-regional clan, to hold off their candidacy until another election if they hope to assure themselves of seats in Parliament.

"There are seven registered leftist parties in Jordan," said a member of the Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), an umbrella group for leftist and pan-Arab parties and individuals. "Together with the three pan-Arab parties, they could form a coalition and field one strong candidate in each district and problably win," said one of the founding members of JANDA, the governor of Amman, Mamduh al-'Abbadi.

But the lack of unity among political parties in general and the left and pan-Arab parties in particular is likely to make this an unlikely scenario.

In the last elections, pan-Arab, liberal and leftist candidates won some 12 seats in the Lower House. Political observers close to the JANDA coalition say that unless the leftists and pan-Arab groups unite and come up with one combined list of candidates, they may lose seats in Parliament rather than gain seats.

While aware of the likelihood that a change in the Election Law was imminent, most of the political parties on the left of the political scale had not prepared an alternative election strategy in the event that the only change to the Election Law would be the one-person, one-vote formula.

Although this limited change had been widely speculated about and expected, the leftist parties, joined by some of the pan-Arab parties, will formulate a new strategy this week pending the legal attempts by seven of these parties to protest and challenge the government's decision to opt for limited change in the Election Law.

Meanwhile, the Islamists, in particular the Islamic Action Front, continued to express opposition to the change.

IAF insiders say that the most likely campaign strategy of the Islamists will be to choose the most likely and popular candidate in each district of the Kingdom and field him.

"We are going to field at least one candidate in each district and two or more in a number of limited districts in Amman as well as al-Baqa', Irbid and al-Zarqa'," said a spokesperson for the IAF on Friday.

While the on-going debate in the Muslim Brotherhood movement and IAF continues on what to do about the change in the Election Law, most insiders believe that beyond written protests neither the IAF nor the other parties who objected a limited change in the law will take any action to protest the change.

The centrist and right-wing parties, which, along with one Islamist party, the Arab Democratic Islamic Movement (Du'a'), showed the least overall opposition to the limited change in the Election Law, are likely to retain the predominatly traditional and clan/tribal orientation of the last parliament, political observers believe.

"These parties are tribal and clan based as it is and thus even if they don't increase the number of seats formerly held by deputies who advocate such political currents they are unlikely to decrease in number.

At least 25 traditional, centrist and right of centre politicians held seats in the last parliament.

Secretary General of the al-'Ahd Party 'Abd-al-Hady al-Majali told the JORDAN TIMES that some cooperation during the elections between centrist parties such as al-'Ahd, al-Watan, al-Yaqazah, the Jordan National Alliance and the Popular Unity Party was "very plausible" and indicated that some candidates would be agreed upon as a "joint candidate" in certain districts.

That leaves three centrist parties to decide with whom or how they will form a coalition. Al-Mustaqbal, the Party for Progress and Justice as and the Arab Unionist Party Democratic have yet to align themselves with any of the more clearly defined political orientations of the left, right or Islamist parties.

Based only in part on tribal affiliations the centrists represent mainly well-established urban groups that are business and industry oriented and are relatively small in number. Political observers believe that in order to win votes the centrists will have to field popular personalities or candidates with strong tribal or regional backing.

Agreement Heads Off Arab Land Bank Strike

JN2208135793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Aug 93 p 3

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—A general strike by nearly 450 employees of the Arab Land Bank was averted Saturday after a reported agreement between the employees of the bank, represented by the General Union of Workers in Banks and Insurance Companies on the one hand, and the Arab Land Bank management on the other.

The bank employees had threatened to strike to impress their repeated demands for extra pay and other benefits but the union has succeeded in working out a compromise agreement, according to Haydar Rashid, the president of the union.

In a telephone interview with the JORDAN TIMES, Mr. Rashid said that under the terms of the agreement, witnessed by Labour Minister Khalid al-Ghizawi, bank employees will get 18 per cent raise on their basic salary or no less than JD 20 each with the understanding that this raise should not prejudice in the annual increment for each employee.

The agreement also provides for raising to JD 20 from JD 14 the wife allowance paid each month to married male employees. It also stipulates that the bank management, which runs 20 branches around the country, should introduce an amendment to its personnel regulations by January 1994 at the latest by which those working under contract would follow the rest of the employees' working system.

The agreement, which will go into effect on Sept. 13 requires the management to grant bank employees soft loans for housing purposes. The bank employees last week held a meeting during which Mr. Rashid voiced the union's full backing of the employees' demands, noting that unless the management relented the employees would have no alternative but to strike.

Banking sources told the JORDAN TIMES that 800 employees of another bank, the National Bank who were also threatening to strike were close to an agreement with their bank management.

They said the agreement would be almost similar to the agreement for the Arab Land Bank and its employees.

Human Rights Group Protests To Interior Minister

JN2108161393 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 18 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] The board of the Human Rights Organization-Jordan Branch has presented protest messages to the interior minister based on complaints received from citizens. These complaints prove how close the government organs adhere to martial law and how far they are from democratic concepts.

Citizen Naji Ibrahim 'Allush faces extraordinary procedures by government organs whenever he enters or leaves the country. There are also persistent complaints from Jordanian citizen Muyassar 'Abid al-'Isawi, who was arrested in 1985. She remains under arrest, without being charged or standing trial.

Citizen Masar Hamdi, from the West Bank, was arrested at Queen Alia Airport upon his return from Romania. Citizen Shafiq 'Ali 'Uthman Ghazal was arrested at a security department where he went for official paperwork for his Algerian wife, after arriving at Queen Alia Airport returning from Pakistan, where he had concluded his studies at the Sciences Faculty in Islamabad.

There are several complaints by citizens who were denied temporary Jordanian passports despite the fact that they reside in the country, such as the cases of citizens Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, Muhammad Amin, and Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Afifi.

Jordanian citizen 'Abdallah Hasan 'Abdallah has filed a complaint about the arrest of his son Khalid, who is a Jordanian University fourth year student, studying chemical engineering. No charge was leveled against him.

Bomb Explodes in Private Car in al-Zarqa'

JN2208113793 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Aug 93 p 3

[Report by Nayif al-Ma'ani published within "Cases and Incidents" column]

[Text] A bomb exploded in a private car in al-Zarqa'. The explosion took place after the car was started and driven approximately two meters. The explosion damaged the car but caused no injuries. After examining the car, an explosives expert discovered the remains of a bomb which had been placed under the right rear side of the chassis. When interrogated, the car owner said that his son had parked the car in front of a hotel. Later, his son got into the car along with his wife and son. The explosion occurred after the car was started and driven approximately two meters. The car then caught on fire. With the help of some citizens, the son managed to extinguish the fire. Investigations are continuing. [In a related report the 22 August edition of the English language daily the JORDAN TIMES carries an Associated Press item stating: " The incident occurred Friday afternoon."]

Kuwaiti Amir, al-Hirawi Meet, Issue Statement

Talks Focus on Aid

NC2408122193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Dispatch by the Voice of Lebanon Radio team from the presidential palace in B'abda—live]

[Text] After a short private meeting between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah, an expanded Lebanese-Kuwaiti meeting was held shortly after 1230 today. Attending the meeting were President al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Information Minister Michel Samahah, and head of the Development and Reconstruction Board al-Fadl Shalaq. Attending on the Kuwaiti side were Amir Jabir al-Sabah, Information Minister Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, Director General of the Kuwaiti Development Fund Badr al-Humaydi, and Amir Jabir's adviser.

It was learned that the discussion focused on the Kuwaiti aid to Lebanon as agreed during the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Damascus; Kuwaiti property and palaces in Lebanon; and the Intra Bank, in which Kuwait has some shares.

The Lebanese side will ask Kuwait to contribute to Lebanon's development and reconstruction.

The expanded Lebanese-Kuwaiti working meeting ended a short time ago and all the participants attended a luncheon hosted by President al-Hirawi in honor of the Kuwaiti guest. Members of the Kuwaiti delegation, the Lebanese Chamber speaker, the prime ministers, and a number of ministers attended.

It was also learned that the Kuwait amir will not hold a press conference but the media branch of the Lebanese Presidential Headquarters General Directorate will release a statement on the discussions and the results of the visit.

Statement on Visit Issued

NC2408145093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Joint Lebanese-Kuwaiti statement on 24 Aug visit to Lebanon by Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah]

[Text] His Highness Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah of Kuwait visited Lebanon in response to a generous invitation by His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi. His highness arrived at the Syrian-Lebanese border before noon today and was received by His Excellency Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and the honorary escort committee, which included Information Minister Michel Samahah, Chairman of the Development and Reconstruction Council al-Fadl Shalaq, Lebanese Ambassador to Kuwait Muhammad 'Isa, Chief of Protocol at the Foreign Ministry Riyad al-Qintar, and Staff Brigadier General Victor Rahmah.

Upon his arrival at the Republican Palace in B'abda, his highness was received by His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Following a closed meeting between his highness and his excellency the president, an expanded meeting was held with the participation of Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and all the others.

During the meeting, the president spoke about the fraternal relations linking Lebanon and Kuwait, thanking his highness for his visit. His excellency then explained the objectives of the recent Israeli aggression on the south and the impact it left, stressing the need for Arab solidarity with Lebanon in the face of the daily challenges, particularly the destruction caused by the repeated Israeli operations against the south.

Chamber Speaker Birri and Prime Minister al-Hariri elaborated on conditions in the south and Lebanon's development and reconstruction needs. The Lebanese officials thanked his highness for the assistance Kuwait sent to Lebanon immediately after the recent Israeli aggression.

His highness explained that the goal of his visit to fraternal Lebanon is to thank the Lebanese officials for their honorable solidarity with Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion and to reiterate Kuwait's solidarity with Lebanon against repeated Israeli attacks against the south.

The two sides consulted on issues of common interest and agreed to prepare a visit to Kuwait by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri on 5 September to continue discussion of the topics raised during the expanded meeting.

His excellency the president hosted a luncheon for his highness and saw him off with the same fraternal feelings with which he received him.

Amir Departs

NC2408150993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah left Lebanon following the talks he and his accompanying delegation held with Lebanese officials, including President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Nabih Birri. [passage omitted]

Israeli Mock Raids, Reinforcements Reported

NC2508113293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon, the Palestinian camps, and Iqlim al-Tuffah at 1100 today, staging mock raids.

According to security sources, the enemy reinforcements during the past two days in the south totaled 15 155mm guns, which were deployed in Marj 'Uyun and Balat, in addition to personnel carriers.

Eyewitnesses have also reported seeing armored reinforcements in al-Khiyam; Tilal al-Ahmadiyah, which overlooks western al-Biqa'; and Ibil al-Saqy. Enemy patrols have also been observed on the Kafr Kila-Dayr Mimas road and on the al-Khardali-al-'Ayshiyah bridge.

Amal Claims 3 Injured in Attack on 'Enemy' Position

NC2508083893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] In a statement it issued today, the Amal Movement claimed responsibility for an attack with machine guns on a position manned by the enemy and his agents in al-Tuhrah. It said that one machine gun and an observation post were destroyed and three members of the garrison were injured.

Choices Facing Hizballah Resistance Assessed

PM2408152693 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 23-29 Aug 93 pp 24-26

[Hamid Haydar report: "Hizballah Facing Two Choices: Mohtashemi's Fate or Divorce Resistance"]

[Excerpts] Will Hizballah in Lebanon turn into a political organization and "divorce" the resistance, whose activities, actions, and operations have created conditions which benefited Iran and helped to ease some of its regional and international problems? Or will it disappear like any provisional temporary movement if it is disarmed?

This question has begun to preoccupy Hizballah leaders and those sympathizing with it on the Palestinian scene, specifically the Islamic Jihad movement in Palestine, which receives aid from Tehran, even though the situation has not reached the point of urgency. Especially after the visit to Tehran by the Hizballah secretary general and members of the Central Committee and Political Bureau; the contacts and meetings between Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Jihad movement, and the movement's other leaders in Damascus and with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati; and the reports about Iran's renewal of support for Hizballah and resistance against Israel following the cease-fire agreement in southern Lebanon.

It is natural for Hizballah and Islamic Jihad to worry about future possibilities which could lead to a further restriction on their growing influence in southern Lebanon if the bilateral negotiations produce a peace agreement. This is because it is no secret that Israel considers the "Islamic resistance" an obstacle to the development of the negotiations. This is why its prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, sought to hit the Palestinian intifadah inside the occupied territories and Hamas' bases. He also launched an attack on southern Lebanon to destroy Hizballah. [passage omitted]

Hizballah sources link Syria's continuation in the negotiations with the end of this party, which was set up to fight Israel under the Iranian plan announced by Khomeyni, who described the Hebrew state as "a cancerous cell that must be removed."

As for Islamic Jihad, its leaders believe that they will remain alone at the end of line after the Arab states sign a peace agreement among whose first results will be the suspension of Hizballah's armed resistance, as Hizballah will naturally turn into a political organization.

A Jihad leader told AL-WASAT that his movement "will be facing up to Israel alone after the negotiations succeed. We do not know how we will treat this big wound."

Hizballah and Jihad leaders are aware that Syria uses their activities and resistance as an important card in the negotiations... but the situation could change if Israel withdraws from the south. Hizballah leaders say that the Iranian-Syrian relationship gives Hizballah strength, as it is enough for Damascus to allow the resistance to operate in Lebanon, even if it does not provide it with financial and military aid.

A seminar held by Islamic Jihad behind closed doors under the title "Question and Answer" in which recent events in Lebanon were assessed came to the conclusion that Iranian influence in Lebanon has become weak because of the link to Syria's strength and the future of the peace negotiations. "Because the Syrians do not approve of Iranian influence in Lebanon. And if it is essential, then it should be controlled, that is, it should be under a high degree of control. Hizballah does not have the ability—nor is it in its interests—to engage in a confrontation with Syria, which—if such a confrontation takes place—would receive support from the Lebanese state in addition to regional and international support. This is why Velayati visited Damascus, met with the Syrian Leadership, and agreed with it to support Hizballah. We do not know how serious this agreement is, but the party's freedom of movement in Lebanon and its previous status are still the same at present."

A report issued by the seminar cited the issue of Syria's permission for Iranian arms to be delivered to Hizballah via its territory, pointing out that "this was one of the issues that Christopher raised in Damascus."

The report, which was distributed on a limited scale in Jihad circles and which AL-WASAT has read, pointed to the cease-fire agreement. It said: "What should be clear is that Hizballah operates basically in southern Lebanon, not in northern Palestine. Liberation of Palestine is among its slogans, but its practical aim now is to liberate southern Lebanon and confront Israel. This is why it did not fire Katyusha rockets against Galilee except in response to an Israeli attack or fierce air and artillery bombardment by Israel. What was agreed was to stop firing Katyusha rockets so that Israel would stop its

aggression and attacks. As for resistance operations, they certainly were not agreed with Hizballah. Perhaps Lebanon offered the United States some assurances that it would gradually exert pressure on Hizballah by deploying the Lebanese Army in more areas in the south and in Hizballah's areas of influence, or by restricting Hizballah's military movements by reducing the number of firearms licenses or inspecting the Lebanese Army's checkpoints."

This is the picture that Hizballah conveyed to Tehran and which Islamic Jihad supports. Hizballah leaders told the Iranians that they rule out a clash with the Lebanese Army at present, but they expect it to take place if real progress occurs in the peace negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts. So Hizballah's halt to firing Katyusha rockets on Galilee is no surprise, especially as Iran said through its senior officials that "it will support Hizballah and the resistance as long as Israel continues to occupy southern Lebanon." [passage omitted]

Certainly Israel's agreement to implement Resolution 425 and to withdraw completely from southern Lebanon, in addition to the Army's deployment in the border strip after a peace agreement has been signed, would put Hizballah in a critical situation and force it to reconsider its old slogans and principles. In addition, many of its leaders and the leaders of the subsidiary organizations which assumed responsibility for kidnapping Western hostages will be subject to U.S. reprisals. [passage omitted]

It has been learned from well-informed sources that Iran is eager to establish positive relations with the Lebanese Government, and that it informed the Hizballah leadership of this, saying that it can do nothing but support the Lebanese Army's deployment in the south after Israel withdraws from the occupied border strip and the peace talks succeed.

So Hizballah will have no option but to seek to pursue political life. When its delegation attended a parliamentary session in Tehran, Iranian radio said that the aim was "to acquaint Hizballah leaders with the methods of exercising parliamentary action."

And this is the better option for the party, which was set up out of the debris of the "Islamic al-Da'wah Party," which it criticized following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Its leaders said that exercising political action in the manner adopted by parties set up on secular foundations and in the Western style was not in line with the vice-regent of juriconsult theory embodied by Iran. Hizballah leaders who see one of their senior Iranian founders, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, living in exile may prefer to turn in the end into a political party, instead of disappearing and being subjected to reprisals!

PLO's Qaddumi Arrives for 'Coordination Session'

JN2408163493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Damascus this evening for an Arab coordination session slated for 27 August in Beirut.

He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, the minister of state for foreign affairs, and Mahmud al-Khalidi, the Damascus PLO office director.

In an arrival statement, Qaddumi said he was delighted to be visiting Syria—a beloved, brotherly country. The visit is to coordinate moves between Syria and the PLO, and assumes special significance at a critical juncture in the history of the Arab world, taking place against the backdrop of recurrent Israeli acts of aggression against Lebanon, Qaddumi said.

The U.S. Administration, he noted, has issued invitations for a resumption of the Washington talks that have yet to produce any tangible results. He said the Arab side in the talks is acting in a manner that will prove to the world that the Arab nation is pursuing peace while Israel is prevaricating and temporizing. Qaddumi urged the international community to pull its weight in the interest of propelling the peace process forward.

Palestinians Said Banned From Entering Syria

JN2508084493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Aug 93 pp 1, 23

[Text] The Syrian authorities are still banning Palestinian citizens, who are born in the occupied Gaza Strip, holding either Palestinian laissez-passer or Jordanian passports, from entering Syria, without giving any justification for the measure that was enforced nearly two months ago.

In a telephone contact, the Syrian consul in Amman told AL-DUSTUR he is unaware of this report, adding that the Syrian Embassy in Jordan has nothing to do with such issues.

While the Syrian authorities decline comment on this issue, Gazan citizens who come from, or try to enter Syria, emphasize that these measures are in force, and that the Syrian border checkpoints do not allow them to enter without explaining the reasons.

Press Comments on Rabin Full Withdrawal 'Rejection'

JN2508070493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Aug 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary today, AL-BA'TH says: Only a few days before holding the 11th round of peace talks in Washington, Yitzhaq Rabin has renewed his government's rejection of full withdrawal from the Syrian Arab Golan Heights, even if this is in return for a comprehensive peace treaty.

AL-BA'TH says this position is not new. However, its timing is highly significant. It indicates Israel has not changed, and will not change, its stands toward the peace process unless it feels there is a general Arab attitude that can stand up to the policy of maneuvering and procrastination being pursued by Israel.

The paper says Israel will spare no effort to escape the obligations of peace. It is not unlike Israel to resort to military action to achieve its objectives. Its aggression against southern Lebanon is conclusive evidence of this.

AL-BA'TH adds that Arabs should act to unify their positions and their understanding of Israel's plans. This requires serious Arab positions to face the big challenges fostered by current realities.

The paper concludes: The Arab nation has enough resources and capabilities to make available everything needed for steadfastness and facing challenges. Therefore, the concentration should be on the Beirut coordination meeting next Friday to promote coordination between the Arab parties taking part in the peace process, to a level that serves pan-Arab issues. The coordination process between the Arab parties immediately concerned with the peace process will have limited results unless it is bolstered by a general Arab stand that has clear goals. It is well known that the ultimate goal of the Arabs is to reach a just, comprehensive peaceful settlement.

Addressing the same issue, TISHRIN speaks about Israeli contradictions and rejection of full withdrawal from the Golan, even in return for full peace with Syria.

TISHRIN expresses amazement at the Israeli officials' statements and stands toward the peace process. How can we reconcile showing concern for participating in the peace process and avoiding the foundations and components of peace? Not content with rejecting withdrawal from the Golan, Rabin has once again resorted to the Israeli technique of playing with words. This reflects a political stance rejecting withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. This stand hides this rejection by what Israel is propagating—partial withdrawals and phased solutions—to maintain occupation and settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

TISHRIN asserts that partial Israeli withdrawal is rejected because it does not make peace. No doubt, Israel's adherence to this solution betrays hostility to peace. It exposes Israeli claims about the possibility of making progress at the 11th round of the Washington talks.

TISHRIN adds that all indications are that Israel still insists on its rejectionist, intransigent position. It is trying to impose its illusions and conditions on the Arabs

to make them relinquish their rights and territories. Israel, however, will not succeed in this endeavor and will not be able to control the fate of the peace process, destroying its real objectives.

The paper underscores the Arab position, especially Syria's position, insisting that there can be no peace with the continuation of the occupation and without the return of the Golan in full to Syria, the return of south Lebanon to its people, ending the occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem, and ensuring the rights of the Palestinian people.

The paper concludes: The Arabs have agreed to participate in the peace process out of great concern to make it succeed. Toward this end, they have made enormous efforts in order to reach real, permanent peace conducive to stability and calm in the region. However, if the Israelis continue to pursue a policy that obstructs peace, they will not only be confirming their hostility toward peace but also exposing their schemes to swallow up Arab territories and usurp legitimate Arab rights. This would make the Israelis the only party to blame for destroying peace opportunities.

AL-THAWRAH says the statements of Israeli officials, propagated with an air of flexibility and full of no-cost verbal concessions and bargains at the expense of others and their rights, are all disappointing.

The paper notes that like previous Israeli governments, the Labor Party government, led by Yitzhaq Rabin, has so far not offered any evidence to substantiate its peaceful claims. The Rabin government has not proven its good intent to defuse conflagration in the region.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Tel Aviv has been practicing a continuous political escape. Its rulers have maneuvered and destroyed the peace process through military escalation and destruction. This bolstered the policy of aggression and expansion and embodied the policy of imposing a fait accompli, challenging and disregarding the resolutions of the United Nations and the Security Council.

The paper says: Israel has been striving with might and main to divide Arab ranks and deal with each Arab party on its own. In light of this, and given Rabin's provocative statements yesterday and his renewal of Zionist ambitions in the Golan, talking about progress in the 11th round and counting on any change in Israel's stands toward the peace process seems an illusion.

The paper concludes: Optimism about making progress depends on the seriousness of the U.S. sponsor and how effective its role at the talks can be in making Israeli withdrawal a comprehensive matter that applies to all tracks in order to restore all Arab territories and rights.

Referendum Idea 'Challenge' to World

JN2108100093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Aug 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN comments on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements before [one-minute break in transmission]. ...the occupied territories through proposing the idea of holding a referendum in which the settlers will decide whether or not to withdraw first. Thus, the peace issue will depend on the result of this referendum.

TISHRIN says that the referendum idea is not new. However, the timing of the Israeli referendum idea makes the 11th round of talks questionable. What kind of referendum is this? Should an occupying settler be given the choice of whether or not to voluntarily abandon the rights that he had usurped from others?

TISHRIN affirms that the Israeli policy is based on aggression, occupation, usurpation of more territories, and the building of settlements. All this is at the expense of Arab rights. For justice to prevail, such rights must be restored and the perpetrator must be punished, rather than rewarded, so that the law of the jungle would not prevail in many regions of the world.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: By all yardsticks, to ask for the opinion of the Israelis is an evasion of the requirements of peace. It means that the Israelis will not give up the occupied Arab territories. The results of the referendum will fool no one. The UN Security Council resolutions and the U.S. initiative have stressed the need for the Israeli withdrawal and the principle of giving up the territories in return for peace.

In its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: Days before the 11th round of the Washington talks, observers cherish great hopes for a qualitative Israeli transformation which would result in pushing forward the peace process. They are expecting Washington to honor the promises Christopher made during his recent tour of the region in which he said that the United States will play an effective role in the talks. However, we find that Rabin's statements go in the opposite direction. If he really means what he said in his recent statements, the 11th round of talks will end before they begin, and this will prove that Israel is living outside laws and international points of reference.

AL-THAWRAH says: Rabin's statement goes in two contradictory directions, each canceling the other. Perhaps this is what Rabin wants. When he says that this year Israel should be prepared for unprecedented difficult decisions on the border, something which may require a people's referendum, we clearly notice the contradiction about which we are talking. He wants to tell the world that Israel is about to make difficult decisions. According to the Israeli mentality, peace is a difficult decision. Therefore, he wants to win some

sectors of world opinion that have been watching the Israeli maneuvers for the past two years.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Rabin wants to tell the world that Israel wants peace and will work for it. At the same time, he regards peace and borders as Israeli concessions. AL-THAWRAH indicates that Israel is the only [state] that has no border. This makes it an exceptional state in the world.

Referring to the referendum, to which Rabin linked the difficult decisions, AL-THAWRAH considers it a dangerous precedence. Through his referendum, Rabin wants to explore Israel's opinion about the resolutions of the international legitimacy and about the U.S. initiative calling for trading land for peace. If the Israelis accept the resolutions of UN Security Council and the international legitimacy, there will be peace. Otherwise, there will be no peace.

AL-THAWRAH says that by proposing a referendum, Israel makes the UN Security Council resolutions and international points of reference a domestic Israeli affair subject to rejection or acceptance. Therefore, it makes the referendum a challenge to the world and the Security Council. Thus, international issues will come under the mercy of the Israelis.

Concluding al-THAWRAH says: If the United States does not implement its promises and pledges, Israel will continues its procrastination and obstruction of the peace talks. The United States should put an end to the Israeli transgression.

Israeli Claims About 'Painful Concessions' Queried

JN2208153793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Many factors have made those interested in the Middle East peace process devote special attention to the proposed 11th round of bilateral talks in Washington. Among these factors is the seriousness of the Arabs, which they keep emphasizing in order to continue this process and push it forward. This has prompted the United States to activate its role, making it more vital, and encouraged it to send out the invitations to hold this round. Moreover, U.S. sources recently reaffirmed that the peace process has become a top foreign affairs priority for the U.S. Administration. This is in addition to what, once again, caught the observers' attention in statements by ranking Israeli officials who talk about anticipating painful concessions, decisive decisions during the next 12 months, and openings on various tracks of negotiations. Perhaps all these factors have prompted more than one party concerned with the peace process to give the upcoming round special attention, raising expectations of possible positive results.

In examining the factors that prompted these parties to expect progress when the negotiations resume at the end of this month, we have to look carefully at the Israeli officials' statements. The painful concessions that those Israelis are talking about are far from being real concessions. Ending the occupation and withdrawing from the Arab territories do not amount to concessions. They would simply be taking place in compliance with international legitimacy and the principles of right and justice. The decisive decisions those Israelis are referring to, in every observers' opinion, are supposed to find an immediate translation, one way or another, in the next negotiations.

Perhaps this is the self-evident conclusion that, as we said earlier, has prompted some parties to expect something positive during the next round. However, our experience with Israel makes us quite reluctant to believe the statements of the Israelis. The possibility should not be ruled out that such statements are meant for outside consumption; that is, to give the impression to the world public that Israel wants and is willing to acquiesce to the requirements of peace without there being any real change in the well-known Israeli negotiating stand that prevented any progress in the 10th round.

This means that it is premature to predict the results of the proposed 11th round. Indeed, despite Arab seriousness and willingness to achieve results in every round of negotiations, and despite the clear U.S. involvement in the peace process and efforts to push this process forward, there has to be a real translation of the new Israeli statements at the negotiating hall before making any judgments on the possible results of the next round. When we say this, we are not trying to belittle the importance of the upcoming negotiations. Moreover, we are not trying to give the impression that we are less willing than before to achieve important results during this round. Indeed, based on the experience of previous rounds, many of which were preceded by great expectations and followed by great disappointment, we want to see a real rather than just a verbal change in the Israeli stand at the negotiating table in order to guarantee that the next step in the negotiations will actually pave the way for continuing the march toward a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

Recent Israeli Statements on Peace Assessed

JN2008160593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The unexpected positive spirit that seems to mark recent statements by Israeli officials on the peace process has drawn the attention of observers, analysts, and others. This development has elicited many expectations and much speculation about the outcome of the 11th round of the Washington bilateral talks. We can characterize this apparently positive spirit as unexpected, because only recently—in the aftermath

of the invitations to resume negotiations on 31 August extended by the cosponsors of the peace process—the statements of several Israeli officials cast doubt on the prospects for progress in the upcoming round of talks. They contended that the short duration of this round might not allow any progress and claimed that the upcoming round is only designed to maintain the momentum of the peace process, and to confirm its continuity.

It goes without saying that anything new, even the appearance of something new, in statements by Israeli officials on the peace process will draw the attention of others, particularly since the past 10 rounds of the peace negotiations were lacking in seriousness. This is something that prevented these rounds of negotiations from making any real progress toward peace. As is well known to the entire world community in general, and to the cosponsors of the peace process in particular, seriousness, positive spirit, and responsiveness have been consistently demonstrated by the Arabs, who have maintained, through their sincere responsiveness, the continuity of the peace process. They have favorably responded to the sincere efforts by the cosponsors of the peace process to advance this process. We are not exaggerating when we say that one of the reasons that encouraged the U.S. cosponsor to evolve its role in the peace process from that of a catalyst to that of a full and active partner—making public and reiterating its neutrality and honesty—has something to do with the seriousness and favorable response demonstrated by the Arabs toward each and every endeavor to promote the peace process.

As a reminder, we would like to indicate that it was Israel that has consistently opposed the intervention of any third party, including the United States, its ally, in the bilateral peace talks. However, the negativism and lack of seriousness marking the Israeli position, which precluded progress in the past 10 rounds of bilateral talks, as well as the serious and positive spirit displayed by the Arab sides, have prompted Washington to reconsider its role, invigorate its efforts, and play the role of a full, active, and fair partner.

Hence, it was only natural that the apparently positive spirit marking the statements of Israeli officials regarding the peace process has drawn the attention of others. However, we must always be reserved. We must not jump to conclusions regarding the impact these apparently new Israeli statements might have on the outcome of the 11th round of peace talks. Our past experience with the Israelis prompts us to remain cautious and skeptical. This is because nobody can know, for sure, whether or not these Israeli statements, which reflect an apparently positive spirit, indicate a new Israeli approach or a position contrary to the previous Israeli approach, which precluded progress throughout the past 10 rounds of peace talks. Likewise, nobody knows whether or not these statements have something to do with the domestic calculations of the Israeli Government.

Judging by the experience gained throughout the past 10 rounds of peace talks, we have learned that Yitzhaq Rabin has repeatedly used the serious crisis plaguing his coalition government to evade any serious commitment in the negotiations. Similarly, he has repeatedly used the negotiations to save his coalition government from successive crises. Hence, one poses the question whether or not the statements made by Israelis regarding the peace process nowadays are only indications of a deceptive positive spirit designed to attract the attention of foreign parties and enable Rabin's government to survive its current crisis.

Well, we do not have to wait long for an answer to this question. This is because the upcoming round of talks, if it convenes, will put the Israelis to the test once again, and show the true Israeli position toward peace.

Kuwait's Jabir Returns to Damascus From Lebanon Visit

JN2408191993 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Kuwaiti Amir Shyakh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah has concluded a visit to Lebanon and returned to Damascus this evening. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad, Jabir Resume Talks 25 Aug

JN2508092893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, resumed their talks at 1015 today in a closed meeting held at Tishrin Palace, the residence of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Afghanistan

Ambassador: Pakistani Aid Expected To Expand

LD2408223693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Pakistan's assistance to Afghanistan is to further expand, and this cooperation is expanding in light of the good relations of the two countries. Mr. Amir Usman, Pakistan's ambassador in Kabul [name and title as heard], recently said in an interview with ANIS, a national newspaper, that a joint economic commission will be set up in the near future for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. The project, which the Islamic State of Afghanistan wants to be assisted, will be assessed. In the interview he said: Pakistan has so far assisted Afghanistan with 50,000 tonnes of wheat—of which 20,000 tonnes have been sent; a few days ago 540 tonnes of wheat arrived in Afghanistan; and a further 30,000 tonnes of wheat will be sent in the coming month or two. Similarly, (?1,000) liters of oil have been sent to Kabul and more will arrive soon. Answering another question, the ambassador of Pakistan said: Pakistan provides all facilities for those Afghan businessmen who are introduced by the Islamic State of Afghanistan in connection of the transport of food. Pakistan wants to set up a modern communication system in Afghanistan. In this connection, 10 million Pakistani rupees have been spent so far, and the remaining of the costs will also be paid by the Government of Pakistan. Usman added: Under the accord, which has been reched between the two countries, the transport problems will be resolved very soon, and the goods that are stored in Karachi will be moved to the appointed areas.

'Contradiction' on 'Abd-al-Rahman Asylum Issue Noted

BK2408140193 Hong Kong AFP in English 1330 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Kabul, Aug 24 (AFP)—Controversial Muslim cleric Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, whose militant followers have been accused of terrorism in the United States, has not yet asked for political asylum in Afghanistan, a senior government spokesman said Tuesday.

Presidential spokesman 'Abdol 'Aziz Morad was clarifying Afghanistan's position on the so-called "Blind Shaykh", an Egyptian radical now living in New York, who recently had his American residence permit cancelled and is now looking for asylum elsewhere.

"If Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman asks for political asylum we will give an answer in compliance with the international declaration for human rights and after consultations with the parties concerned," Morad said.

Morad said Egypt, which is requesting extradiction of Shaykh 'Umar, would be one of the parties consulted, if asylum was requested in Afghanistan.

The matter of Shaykh 'Umar's asylum in Afghanistan arose some weeks ago when Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, not in a policy statement but in reply to a journalist's question, stated that Afghanistan was ready to offer asylum to the Blind Shaykh.

But in Iran this week Hekmatyar, perhaps mindful of the Shaykh's negative association with international terrorism in general and Islamic fundamentalism in particular, withdrew this offer, Morad stated.

"There is a contradiction in Hekmatyar's stance regarding Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman's asylum. In Afghanistan, as well as in Pakistan he declared he is ready to give the Blind Shaykh political asylum but in Iran he denied it," said Morad.

Article Cites Reversal on Asylum Offer

BK2408145993 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 22 Aug 93 p 8

[Text] The world known Muslim scholar, Shaykh 'Uamr 'Abd-al-Rahman will have to suffer another set-back when he would come to know that the Afghan prime minister, Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar has backed out of his offer for asylum to the former.

Hekmatyar who was the last hope for the blind leader of the Egyptian al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, told journalists in Tehran two days ago that he had not so far decided to house Shaykh in Afghanistan. [sentence as published] For the political observers the fresh statement of Hekmatyar is contrary to what he had said earlier on the issue.

Hekmatyar, according to the BBC, while talking to journalists, said that the issue has not so far even been discussed by his cabinet. He further said that he has also not received any formal request from Shaykh either.

The Afghan prime minister who is on two-day visit to Iran was quoted by AFP as saying early this month, that he was willing to accommodate the Egyptian leader in Afghanistan. However, the Afghan leader said that he would take up the issue with his cabinet when Shaykh would make a formal request for asylum in Afghanistan.

The Afghan foreign minister, Amin Arsala during his visit to Islamabad this month also made similar statement on the issue. The Afghan foreign minister told newsmen in Islamabad that the offer made by Hekmatyar might have been of his party, Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party]. "The issue was not discussed by the cabinet", Arsala further said.

It is also important to note that the Afghan president, Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani had already ruled out the possibility of offering asylum to Shaykh 'Umar.

The interesting part of the story is that a key Afghan leader, Prof. Abdol Rasul Sayyaf is also not interested in rescuing Shaykh 'Umar at this difficult time.

It may be recalled here that most of the Arab mujahideen who were associated with al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah of 'Umar joined Sayyaf's party in the 14-year Afghan war.

Many Arabs of Shaykh 'Umar were killed while fighting alongside the fighters of Sayyaf in Paghman.

According to the sources, Hekmatyar's second thought on the fate of Shaykh 'Umar was the constant pressure from Islamabad, Tehran and Sandi Arabia. The sources disclosed that the three countries have asked Hekmatyar not to offer him asylum as such a step would not be in the interest of Afghanistan. He was also told that his decision to accommodate the Shaykh will put into jeopardy the possible help of the west for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Commentary on Election Mechanism, Parliament

LD2308185193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Article by BAKHTAR political commentator]

[Excerpts] According to [words indistinct] elections will be held in the country very soon. Almost all jihadi leaders agree with this work. However, a mechanism for elections and the form of voting have not been yet specified. If the elections are to be truly held within the coming two months, then a very short time remains for carrying out many great tasks. [passage omitted]

After a long war for the independence of the country, the armed forces of the formations still exist, and armed groups of every formation are being separately led. Heavy weapons are still in their possession. In every case, the existence of heavy weapons could create a big obstacle and it was perhaps for this reason that the election commission has put emphasis on the collection of weapons.

A specific mechanism ought to be prepared. An assembly should first be held to approve the future mechanism, and in order to adhere to the results of the election, it would be a good idea if, in line with agreement by the leaders, the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Organization would monitor the process of elections. The idea of having the elections monitored by the United nations was first put forward by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, whose forces control the capital and great number of provinces.

In order for the parliament to be able to approve the constitution and decide about [words indistinct], in addition to people's elected representatives, a number of religious personalities of the jihadi formations, technocrats, and representatives of refugees should also be specially selected in the parliament's composition. Of course the selected representatives would leave after the approval of the constitution and only the elected delegates would remain as the parliament of the country, who would give the vote of confidence to the prime minister and cabinet in line with the country's constitution. The parliament watches the affairs of the government and the tasks of lawmaking. The parliament should consist of two houses which would carry out their specific duties [passage indistinct]

A question which has not been yet clarified—and a decision ought to be taken—is the vote of [words indistinct]. If the voting is a taken directly by every individual, in that case the remaining question in the election is the role of women. It is a matter of surprise that the country's prime minister, esteemed Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, has avoided expressing an opinion in this regard. It is important that esteemed leaders of the jihad and the election commission express their clear stand in this regard. [passage omitted]

Radio, TV Chief Hopes To Benefit From Iran's Expertise

LD2108205793 Tehran IRNA in English 1741 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 21, IRNA—Director of Kabul radio and television Shams-ul-Haq Arianfar [name as received] said here today that Iranian films and TV serials greatly appeal to the Afghan audience and are widely popular in Afghanistan.

He said many Iranian films and TV series had frequently been shown on Kabul television in response to their unique popularity in that country.

Arianfar also expressed hope that the television station here would be in a position to receive or perhaps relay films and other programs broadcast by the Iranian television network.

The Kabul radio and television station, he said, now covers only the capital city because much of its original technical facilities had been destroyed or largely damaged during the 15 years of political turmoil in Afghanistan following the Soviet occupation of that country in 1978.

Arianfar expressed hope that the Islamic Republic would offer Afghanistan technical expertise in the area of radio and television so that the country would be able to rehabilitate its radio and television stations.

Bangladesh

Manpower Exports Increase 28 Percent

BK2308110193 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Aug 93 p 7

[Text] A total of 237,779 Bangladeshi workers went abroad with legal permission of the government and the country earned Tk. [Taka] 3,685 crore [36.85 billion] through wage earners' remittances during the last financial year, reports UNB [United News of Bangladesh].

This was stated at the 12th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Labour and Manpower Ministry at the Sangsad Bhavan [Parliament House] on Wednesday [11 August].

Chairman of the committee and Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan presided over the meeting.

The meeting was informed that manpower export increased by 28 per cent in the 1992-93 financial year compared to the figures for 1991- 92 and foreign exchange earning from them was 10 per cent higher.

In the 1991-92, a total of 185,257 people went abroad and Tk. 3,241 crore [32.41 billion] had been earned from them.

The meeting also reviewed over-all labour situation and it emphasised the need for ensuring proper implementation of labour laws in different industrial units for protecting the interest of the workers.

Committee members Whip of Parliament - Ashraf Hossain, Begum Khaleda Rabbani, Mirza Muraduzzaman, Md. Helaluzzaman Talukdar Lalu of BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party], Principal Abdus Shahid, Md. Aminul Islam and Sharif Uddin Ahmed of Awami League, Md. Mojaher Hossian of CPB [Communist Party of Bangladesh], and Shahiduzzaman of Jamaat-e-Islami, Secretary of the Ministry - Dr. Shah Mohammad Farid and other high officials were present.

Gas Company Earns Profit of 55.80 Million Taka

BK2308151493 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Jalalabad Gas System, a subsidiary company of Petro Bangla, earned a net profit of five crore and 58 lakh [55.80 million] Taka during the last financial year. This profit was 44 lakh [4.4 million] Taka higher than the previous year's and two crore 41 lakh [24.10 million] Taka higher than that of 1990-91 fiscal year.

India

Army Pursuing 'New Method' of Routing Rebels

BSF Official Praises Operations

BK2308163393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the new method of intelligence oriented operations to flush out militants from the hideouts without harming the civilians has produced the desired effect. This was stated by the additional director general of BSF [Border Security Force], Mr. P. C. Dogra, in Srinagar. BSF, which has been entrusted with the responsibility of anti-militancy operations in Srinagar is making every effort to enlist the support of the people to flush out militants from crowded areas. AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent, A. Karoppaswamy, who visited the Kashmir valley reports: Frustrated for the failure to create large-scale disturbances on the 14th and the 15th of this month, the militants have started attacking soft targets to whip up large-scale communal disturbances in Jammu, Rajaori, and Punch. Our correspondent adds that alienation of the militants from the general public is a major factor for the success of the operations of the BSF and other security forces. The killing of the hard-core militant and coordinator of the subversive movement, Akbar Bhai at Sopor on the seventh of this month, has demoralized the militants considerably, he added.

Three Foreign Mercenaries Killed

BK2408160693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, three foreign mercenaries were killed when an Army patrol intercepted a big group of militants trying to infiltrate into the valley near the Line of Control in Kupwara sector yesterday. An Army spokesman said in New Delhi today that a major combing operation has been launched in the area to trace out the rest of the militants and clear the area of intruders.

Army Operations in Valley Viewed

BK2308104693 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 16 Aug 93 p 3

[By Pravin Sawhney]

[Text] Of the four tasks that the Army is doing in the state, recent gains in the most sensitive and least co-ordinated job of counter-insurgency (CI) operations have been in the form of actionable intelligence and information flow available to troops in various sectors of the Valley.

This has led to the targeting of prized hard-core militants, dipping once again the morale of the innumerable militant sympathizers referred to as "over-ground workers" those committed to the 'Azadi' cause, but operating within the law as motivators, financers and planners. According to headquarters, 15 corps (highest headquarters directly involved in CI operations) perception as given out by Brig [Brigadier] C.S.Panag, the brigadier general staff, there are no 'liberated zones' in the state. There is not an inch of the Valley that the Army does not dominate at will. It is another matter that the army cannot be present at all places, all times.

The point is established by the fact that two reinforced army divisions (around 30,000 troops) in the Valley are committed to CI operations. The recently inducted 39 mountain division is at Anantnag. It has two brigades and the Rashtriva Rifles (RR) sector forces under its command. RR is an euphemism for regular army brigade troops.

The other, 8 mountain division with four brigades at Sharifabad has been in the Valley since over three years.

This division since its inception 25 years ago in the North-East has been trained in CI role.

To choke the insurgents' free run across the Line of Control (LC) and to discourage any adventurism by Pakistan, an additional eight reinforced divisions are deployed in the state. These are for the LC management and as roving hard-hitting mobile brigades to curb infiltration and ex-fiitration by insurgents into PoK [Pakistan-occupied Kashmir]. "This has resulted in sealing the over 500km LC as much is humanly possible." observed an officer.

The state also has nearly 48 percent of the total 150 BSF [Border Security Force] batallions (1,71,000) troops) positioned under the command of the army along the LC and independently in Valley urban areas under 31 sub-area at Srinagar. "Under an additional director general for the state, the BSF has emerged as a good counter-insurgency force," observed a senior army officer.

Notwithstanding this preponderance of CI trained troops, the army has succeeded primarily only in keeping lines of communication open through intensive patrolling done by its road opening parties (ROPs). These include Jammu-Srinagar (IA) highway, Srinagar-Leh and Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri roads required to be kept operative round the year. "There has not been a single incident of disruption on these roads," according to Brig Panag. The other roads of secondary importance criss-crossing the state are operated only when required.

If the forces go euphoric over tactical gains like nabbing ex-filtration parties like the recent 128 boys in Sonamarg, or recovering cache of mostly pre-1989 hidden arms and ammunition, it is because there is little to laud about the broader non-existent strategic and operational CI picture. No larger gains have been made of the fact that Kashmiris today detest mercenaries, that people are relatively more friendly resulting in lesser cordon and search operations and ready acceptance of army civic and medical assistance. It is the result of this growing Kashmiri disenchantment with the insurgents that they have resorted to acts as recent discriminate killings of bus passengers: a manifestation of their desperation for a comeback.

The failing to exploit tactical gains to refurbish the larger picture of winning over of the over-workers is not because the numbers, training or weapons with troops in CI role are inadequate, or the fact that army is unaware that CI is a war of attrition.

The problem, according to senior officers, are in three areas. First, the basic principle of a unified command and coordination for troops operating in CI role has been violated with impunity. While the coordination of CI troops rests with Lt Gen (retd) M.A.Zaki, security advisor to the Governor, it is the army commander Lt Gien D.S.R.Sahni who commands them through GOC [General Oficer Commanding] 15 corps. Sources opine that 15 corps is really caught between Zaki, who supposedly coordinates army and CPOs [Command Post Oficers] for CI operations and Sahni, who is best aware of the broader operational situation in the state.

The recent Zaki proposal awaiting clearance from the government for a unified command coordinating committee, in which he has asked for a staff of one brigadier and three colonels, is expected to be a nonstarter. This is because the BSF is reluctant to work under the command of army and the latter views it as another power center. "If the BSF and CPOs are unwilling to work under the army, they should at least cooperate more than is happening now,"observed a senior officer.

And most importantly, Pakistan is winning the psychological battle in Indian territory. Despite four years of uprising in the valley, the state government, army headquarters and headquarters 15 corps are yet to evolve a focussed psychological operations thrust to counter the hyped Human Rights violations propaganda in the state. It still goes to the credit of the army that it is becoming more open to the media. But this should be viewed as only a beginning to beating Pakistan in its psychological operations game, the reverberations of which now go beyond the subcontinent.

Paper on U.S. South Asia Policy, F-16's for Pakistan

BK2208083393 Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Aug 93 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. South Asia Policy"]

[Text] Junior U.S. State Department officials these days speak like imperial pro-consuls for South Asia. But posturing is not as important as the content of the policy the Clinton administration is finalising for South Asia. With the cold war behind it, and a overwhelmingly strong offshore military presence in South-West Asia, America is not really obliged to tilt towards Pakistan (except, insofar as a degree of favourable treatment is demanded by Pakistan's military elite for the services Pakistan rendered to the U.S. cause in the cold war). But Pakistanis are pertinacious; and while cadging favours from Americans, they never really take 'no' for an answer. Pakistan has a strong lobby in Washington, though not as powerful as Israel's. If cold war considerations do not favour Pakistan, Islamabad's diplomats have new talking points these days. The former USSR served an enormously important purpose in Pakistan's U.S. policy, though even then India was "the enemy". Today, when the Soviets do not exist and unaligned India can no longer be placed on the Soviet side, Islamabad's diplomacy has thought up fresh reasons for wanting preferential American treatment for Pakistan. The containment of the Soviets was once the object of U.S. backing for Pakistan. That aim is no more valid. However, the Pakistanis have a substitute for it. Containment of India, Pakistanis have been telling Americans, is an aim in which both America and Pakistan should be equally interested. Pakistani diplomacy thus refurbishes the old theory of congruence of U.S.- Pakistan interests in South Asia. The new congruence theory

hinges on the U.S. anxiety about proliferation of atomic weapons and missile technology. In this field, Pakistanis argue, they can be useful to the Americans. They justify Pakistan's own proliferative activities as subserving NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] purposes. How, one might ask. By engaging in a military nuclear programme Pakistan has acquired the ability "to bring Indians to the negotiating table". The proliferation in Pakistan, in other words, serves a vital U.S. interest—hastens the day when India would be forced to submit to a regional NPT and MTCR [Missile Technology Control Regime] regulations. The theory is Mephistophelian and so dishonest that one would have thought it insults the intelligence of those who make U.S. policies. But Islamabad promises Washington that Pakistan can stop India from "becoming a nuclear power" and thus claiming a permanent Security Council seat. Preposterous as this line of argument may seem, it has gained for Pakistan a great deal. The threat that Pakistan can be branded a terrorist state has been withdrawn; and Washington is receptive to ideas which would give Pakistan F-16 aircraft, if that can be done without openly repudiating the Pressler restraint applicable to Pakistan. Third- country sale and purchase of F-16 are being considered to go round the obstacle the Pressler injunction has placed. But the true American interests, in the post-cold war situation in South Asia, should include prevention of state-sponsored proxy wars which, through wrong calculations, can lead to open inter-state conflicts. American interests are fostered by India's stability and preservation of the integrity of the Indian state which is the main democracy in this region. India thus can be a source of regional stability, an important aim, presumably, of the U.S. policy for South Asia.

Bills on Abuse of Religion in Politics Deferred

BK2408121693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The government today deferred both the bills seeking to prevent misuse of religion in politics. Announcing this, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, told the Lok Sabha today that the bills have been deferred as some opposition parties wanted some more time for consideration of the bills as recommended by the Joint Select Committee. Mr. Chavan, however, said that the government will continue the discussion with other political parties in this regard. He asserted the government's determination to fight the evil of religion poisoning politics. The bills were to be taken up for discussion this afternoon soon after the debate on a constitutional amendment bill for setting up rent tribunals was over.

CPI-M Criticizes Government Economic Policies

BK2408031893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has criticized the prime minister for what it called his failure to check communal forces. Speaking during the closing session of the party's Central Committee meeting in Bangalore, the party leaders also alleged that the center is treading a path leading to disaster on the economic front. A resolution adopted at the meeting urged Mr. Narasimha Rao to appear before the Joint Parliamentary Committee probing the security scandal to clear his name in the payoff allegation.

Speaking at a public function at the end of the Central Committee meeting, the West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, alleged that there is a race between the Congress-I and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] in trying to appropriate the platform of temple construction in Ayodhya. Mr. Basu, Party General Secretary Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjit, and Senior Leader Mr. E.M.S. Namboodripad expressed deep concern over the closure of a number of private [as heard] sector industrial units.

Opposition Protests TV Blackout of Political Events

BK2408055193 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Opposition members in both the houses of Parliament have protested over, what they called, the electronic media blacking out two important political events in the capital yesterday. Raising the issue during zero hour, they said Doordarshan did not cover the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] rally against the bill on delinking religion from politics and also [Janata Dal Leader] V.P. Singh's departure from Delhi. They criticized Doordarshan for not having provided coverage, though advanced information was given to them. In the Lok Sabha, BJP members staged a walkout over the issue.

Intervening earlier, the information and broadcasting minister, Mr. K.P. Singhdeo, promised to enquire into the matter. He said that he was given to understand that Doordarshan did not receive a request for coverage of the BJP rally. However, the event was covered in the news bulletin this morning.

Janata Dal-Ajit President Shot Dead in Patna

BK2308170493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] The president of the Bihar Pradesh [state] Yuva [youth] Janata Dal-Ajit, Mr. Sarfaraz Ahmed, was shot dead by some armed miscreants in Patna today. According to police the incident occurred near the party headquarters. Mr. Ahmed was rushed to the Patna Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead.

Commentary Views Rao Visit To Bhutan, Bilateral Ties

BK2408125193 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 24 Aug 93

[H. Sitarama Rao commentary]

[Text] India and Bhutan are close neighbors with the depth of understanding, perhaps, unparalleled in the world. The two countries have held a tradition of regular exchange of views at all levels, a tradition which began with Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru's historic visit to Bhutan in September 1958. The just-concluded two- day visit of the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, to the Himalayan kingdom is in line with this well established tradition. The visit, the first since Mr. Rao assumed office over two years ago, has helped further cement the close ties between the two countries. During the visit, Mr. Rao and King Jigme Singye Wangchuk had extensive talks on the general situation in the region with particular reference to the Indian subcontinent and cooperation under the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation—SAARC—umbrella. While exchanging views freely and frankly, Mr. Rao expressed India's commitment to extending its assistance in full developmental efforts of Bhutan as Mr. Rao also stressed at the end of the visit that there were no problem areas between the two countries.

With the visit, decks have been cleared for further economic cooperation between the two neighbors. The Chhukha hydel project, largely funded and implemented by India, is a symbol of the close mutually beneficial ties. India pays 400 million rupees annually for purchasing power from Bhutan. The power from Chhukha has turned West Bengal into a power surplus area. India is likely to present a detailed project report on the second phase of Chhukha project to the Bhutanese government in the next few days. With its vast water resources, Bhutan has immense potential for hydel power generation and there is immense scope for further cooperation between the two countries for mutual benefit.

Besides the economic cooperation, the two leaders have exchanged views on Mr. Rao's forthcoming visit to China. The talks assume significance as both the countries have border disputes with China. The Bhutanese king briefed Mr. Rao about the illegal migration of people from the mountain kingdom from Nepal. On this ticklish ethnic issue, the Indian Government has taken a positive note of the recent talks of the Nepalese home minister at Thimpu and the decision of Bhutan to send a delegation to Kathmandu next month for further negotiations to determine the category of refugees which should be repatriated. On Bhutan-Nepalese relations, Mr. Rao observed: we are convinced that quiet diplomacy carried out between Bhutan and Nepal offers the best chance for working out a solution to this difficult question. The Bhutanese king said in reply Bhutan had a good understanding with India on this ethnic issue. He said the problem of illegal immigrants and that of terrorism in Bhutan will affect the security of India as well. The king expressed satisfaction on the impact of Mr. Rao's visit to the Himalayan kingdom saying on all issues which are discussed we have identical thinking.

Though Mr. Rao's visit is brief, it will go a long way in furthering Indo-Bhutanese relations. As the king pointed out there are no issues to be settled between India and Bhutan which, in itself, is an excellent example of good neighborly relations. India is assisting Bhutan in many of its ongoing developmental projects, including Phunaka reservoir project, 1000 mw Chhukha Phase-Two, 900 mw Chhukha Phase-Three and 60 mw Kuru Chu hydel projects as also a cement project being set up as a joint collaboration with the Cement Corporation of India. Both Mr. Rao and the Bhutanese king have expressed their confidence that the ties between the two countries will grow in stature and strengthen in the months and years to come. The basis of this friendship is the mutual trust, understanding, and respect for each other's needs, the common interest in developing the economies of the two countries without losing their identities, and the faith provided by long historic bonds of religious and cultural links. The last visit to Bhutan by an Indian prime minister was by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi in September 1988 and King Jigme Singye Wangchuk visited India in January this year.

Iran

Velayati Outlines Future Foreign Policy Principles

LD2408175793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Our country's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati set out his ministry's principles in an interview today with our reporter Qoruqi.

[Qoruqi] In an exclusive interview with Iranian radio and television on the first day of Government Week, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed the record of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and pointed to the future foreign policy priorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI].

Pointing to the fact that the efforts of the Foreign Ministry are based on the twin axes of expansion of bilateral relations with the countries of the world and a more active presence in international scene, he said: Altogether, in these political activities, the maintenance of the IRI's world interests has always had a particular priority.

He also said: Another aim of IRI foreign policy in the past several years has been the defense of the IRI and world Muslims in the international scene.

Stressing that IRI foreign policy has always had a particular complexity, the foreign minister said:

[Begin recording] [Velayati] With the advance and strengthening of the revolution, the IRI aims have expanded and our activities have increased. The management of war diplomacy during the [Iran-Iraq] war and the management of peace diplomacy during the time of peace have been among our main responsibilities. Therefore I can state that our work in foreign policy, in the past years, has been in fact a collection of efforts for understanding the existing realities of the world, searching and discovering ways of upholding the IRI, promoting this

country, defending Islamic and Iranian ideals on the international level, providing suggestions for senior IRI officials, and implementing the decisions made by the organizations responsible for the formation of foreign policy.

[Qoruqi] Mr. Velayati, with the international developments in mind, could you tell us what will be the IRI foreign policy priorities in the future?

[Velayati] Expansion of relations with neighboring countries and those in our region, expansion of relations with Islamic countries, expansion of relations with industrial and technological countries, and upgrading of efforts and activities on the international level toward achieving the aims—stated in your first question—are among our foreign policy priorities. [end recording]

Commentary Examines Policy Challenges

LD2408130793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0956 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful, greetings and good day. Let me draw your attention to today's political commentary.

On the first day [23 August] of the seminar of the heads of the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomatic missions abroad, First Vice President [Hasan] Habibi and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed important international political issues as well as regional and international developments, and outlined the basic principles of our country's foreign policy and the tasks and responsibilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran's missions abroad.

The fact is that the war imposed by Iraq on Iran during nearly the entire first decade of the Islamic revolution imposed a paricular situation on our country's diplomatic machinery. Since the country's national security was a top priority at that juncture, our foreign policy, too, worked in the diplomatic arena, hand-in-hand with the selfless combatants of Islam to foil the covert and overt regional and international alliances and coalitions formed against the Islamic Republic. Our country's foreign diplomacy was also busy trying to convert military victories into political achievements at that time.

The end of the imposed war more or less coincided with fundamental and extensive international and regional developments, opening a wider arena for our country's diplomatic machinery. The rapidity of the changes and their extensive scope called for an extraordinary theoretical and practical effort by our country's foreign policy machinery.

Even though, on the basis of a general assessment, our country's foreign policy can be judged as being active and successful, nonetheless, one must not belittle the difficulty of adopting and implementing correct policies in the current turbulent international arena. The United States' efforts to impose itself as the remaining superpower after the end of the Cold War and in the transition from the former bi-polar world to the new world order no doubt increases this difficulty several-fold.

The growth of Islamism in the region, as well as the independence of the Islamic countries of Central Asia, has extended in an unprecedented way the Islamic Republic of Iran's arena of national security and its field of interest [hoze-ye amniyat-e melli va faza-ye hayati-ye nezam jomhuri-ye eslami] in the second decade of the revolution.

All these changes and the need for standing fast by the principles of the Islamic revolution have placed a heavier burden on the shoulders of the policymakers and implementers of our country's foreign policy. Holding the initiative in foreign policy, especially in today's changing world, requires the drawing up of a long, medium, and short-term strategy on the basis of correct information and bearing in mind the goals of the Islamic revolution. The correct implementation of its plans and strategy by the executive body of the diplomatic machinery, which has wide extensions abroad, in turn, requires the employment of staff who are intelligent, active, experienced, and who believe in the principles of the Islamic revolution.

In a world where communications play a decisive role, the diplomatic representatives of the Islamic Republic must aim at the expansion of ties within the framework of national and Islamic principles and interests.

The seminar of the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomatic representatives is a good opportunity for sharing diplomatic experiences and assessing past policies towards the adoption of a policy in keeping with the upheavals now taking place in the region and the world. The diplomatic representatives of the Islamic Republic must always remember the fact that they are ambassadors of the revolutionary and formerly-suffering nation of Iran and of the country of the Lord of the Age. While abroad they must act strictly as the full-length mirror of this nation and this country and nothing must deflect them from the pursuit of their sacred mission.

Armenian Forces Cause 'Material Damage' in Border Area

LD2408151493 Tehran IRNA in English 1329 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Kaleybar (East Azarbaijan Province), Aug. 24, IRNA—Armenian forces now fighting Azeri troops fired into Iranian territory. Rounds fired by Armenian forces ricochetted, killing two cows owned by an Iranian farmer in the border village of Qara Churlu.

According to an informed source, Armenian troops on previous occasions had fired with automatic rifles and multiple rocket launchers into the Iranian territory, bordering the Azerbaijan Republic. However, this is the

first time that the rounds fired by the Armenian troops have caused material damage.

Armenian Threat to Transit Traffic Seen

LD2408203393 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Khoda Afarin (East Azerbaijan Prov.), Aug. 24 IRNA—The surface transport of basic goods from Azerbaijan to Nakhichevan via Iran will be fully disrupted if the Azeri towns of Fizuli and Jibril entirely fall into the hands of Armenian troops, an informed source cautioned here Tuesday [24 August].

At present, 150 trucks carry foodstuff, fuel and other essential goods to the autonomous republic of Nakhichevan via Iranian territory every day, the source told IRNA.

He also accused Armenian troops of firing into Iranian territory once in a while, the latest of which was on Sunday last when several rockets landed near here.

An Azerbaijani trucker, who recently drove into Iran via Khoda Afarin border point, said Armenian forces based across Iran-Azerbaijan border had shot at two Azeri trucks travelling on the Khoda Afarin-Jolfa road a few days ago, causing damage to them.

Russian Ambassador Interviewed on Future Relations

NC2308151593 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 10 Aug 93 p 2

["Exclusive" interview with Sergey Mikhaylov Tretyakov, Russian ambassador to Iran, with unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given; quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] [ABRAR] How do you view the future of relations between Russia and the Islamic Republic of Iran? What do you think about the U.S. pressure on Russia within the framework of isolating Iran to make you relinquish your efforts to expand cooperation with Iran in various fields?

[Tretyakov] Fortunately, I can say that after His Excellency President Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited Moscow and met officials of the former Soviet Union, a very positive trend was initiated making our bilateral relations more durable. There was a dazzling increase in mutual cooperation that has been initiated or is halfway complete, even in fields where there was no prior cooperation.

We can state that there are regular political contacts between the two countries. For example, in the current year (solar and lunar) His Excellency Mr. Kozyrev, our foreign minister, visited Tehran and signed two documents of immense importance to the future political relations between the two countries. The first one does not have a specific title yet and is still under the consideration of the two sides. It is a principled document that will constitute a firm basis for broadening bilateral relations.

The second document, which was signed by Kozyrev and Velayati, pertains to political consultations between the two Foreign Ministries. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Konadze came to Tehran to prepare this document. He held some very useful and constructive discussions with regard to economic, military, nuclear cooperation, "I mean in the field of the construction of the nuclear power plant," and with regard to the Caspian Sea.

In this regard, Russia and Iran have an important role, as the newly independent countries stand to benefit, but they do not have any experience in this field. We hope that the results of Russian-Iranian cooperation will attain results and in the near future an extremely important document for multifaceted cooperation among the littoral countries of the Caspian Sea will be signed.

[ABRAR] In what fields is this cooperation envisaged?

[Tretyakov] Initially this cooperation will pertain to the preservation of biological resources, which will start in the next 10 to 15 days in Anzali port. It will encompass all aspects of shipping and will define the future legal system of the Caspian Sea and oil exploration.

The two sides do have some problems regarding principles, but they believe that these problems are historical and the current problems can be resolved. For example, a Russian delegation is expected to visit Iran to settle financial accounts between the two countries.

In general, I see the future of political and economic relations between the two countries as very bright. In my capacity as the Russian ambassador, it is my duty and my wish to make the maximum effort to expand relations as much as possible.

The second part of your question pertains to the U.S. pressure on Russia to keep it from expanding relations with Iran. I should state that this is not a new story for us. Perhaps it may be new for the Iranian people as they were not aware of such pressures in the past, and they did not know what kind of pressures were and are still being exerted on us in this regard.

In any case, after Russia's independence we accepted all the commitments the former Soviet Union had with Iran, and the pressure started right away. The pressure was greater regarding military relations and bilateral cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which continues. However, our views are clear. We consider our relations with Iran an element of our independent foreign policy.

Our relations with the United States in the aftermath of the Cold War are fine, and we hope that these relations will expand. However, this does not mean that the Americans can tell us what to do and what not to do. Our policy is an independent one and our relations with a third country cannot affect our relations with other

countries. Therefore, Russia will continue to fulfill its commitments to Iran and provide the necessary services. Iran will honor its commitments with regard to payment for these services, and no one can tell us what to do.

[ABRAR] Mr. Tretyakov, a question arises here. Russia should have an independent foreign policy—this is correct and logical. However, there are examples contradicting your assertions, one of which is your sale of aviation technology to India, which Russia was forced to abandon due to U.S. pressure. This happened even though Russian President Yeltsin stressed in New Delhi that Russia would honor its commitments to India and no other country could dictate terms to Moscow.

[Tretyakov] Well! I consider it necessary to provide some clarification with regard to the construction of the nuclear power plant. Following visits by Iranian delegations to Moscow, I heard some remarks about Russian participation in completing the nuclear power plant in Bushehr that Germany had refused to complete. In any case, we are ready to do this. We had detailed discussions in this regard with the United States. "I was in Moscow at that time." The Americans came and said that Iran is in the process of manufacturing a nuclear bomb. We asked them for some evidence or proof of this, but they did not have any. Of course International Atomic Energy Association experts came to inspect the Iranian installations and checked every section. They announced that they did not see anything that could be considered a violation or anything suspicious. So we informed our American friends who had come to Moscow that there were no obstacles to relations with Iran in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Iran abides by its international commitments as a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, so why should we penalize a country that is honoring its commitments? This is not logical.

[ABRAR] My other question pertains to the current crisis within the CIS. Flashpoints exist in Tajikistan, Nagorno-Karabakh, Moldova, and the Baltics. Some analysts refer to the weak structure of the CIS. Despite the accusations directed at the CIS, our economic relations are facing the situation created by the breakaway forces from the center. This has affected Russia, too, as we are witnessing declarations of independence within the Russian Federation itself. What is Moscow's viewpoint and course of action?

[Tretyakov] The situation in Tajikistan has two aspects, the internal and external. A government has come to power, and I perceive that most newspapers in Iran report that this government took power through a coup d'etat. We say that the government was elected legally by the parliament. It is a difference between our respective opinions that the Government of Tajikistan is a legitimate one. However, with regard to the opposition forces, Russia believes that, as in the case of Nagorno-Karabakh, the government should speak to the opposing groups and ultimately resolve their problems. We are trying to convince the Tajik Government to placate its opponents through negotiations. We have also criticized some of its harsh actions. Issues cannot be resolved in an atmosphere of force and pressure.

The second aspect entails foreign intervention. It is no secret that some opposition groups have gone to Afghanistan and launched attacks from the Afghan border. This is at a time when 40,000 Afghan refugees have returned to Tajikistan. According to reports we have received, a large number of them are in favor of returning. Those who have remained in Afghanistan have probably committed crimes or have links with the Afghan mojahedin groups and do not wish to return. It is therefore no secret that many foreign countries are providing financial and military assistance to them "by way of providing weapons and military training."

According to our commitments with the Tajik Government and the agreements signed within the CIS framework, Russian guards were deployed on the Tajik-Afghan border. Some days ago, a session was held in Moscow attended by the Russian and Central Asian presidents and there was unanimous agreement on protecting the Tajik-Afghan border. It was agreed at this session that more troops should be sent in from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. Of course, forces from these countries are deployed on the border but the Russians are in the majority.

The problem is that armed opposition groups attack the military townships and border outposts. Perhaps newspapers in Islamic countries explain these attacks as being inevitable as the townships and the guards prevent their entry. This is not true. In current circumstances, there are fewer Russians and they only guard their own outposts and townships. There is a stretch of 30 to 40 km of vacant land between them. The groups can cross from those areas without any clashes. It was for this reason that we interpreted their attacks as aggression against the Russian forces, and we were forced to respond.

In any case, we are in favor of harmony among the countries in the region. For example, this issue was discussed during the visits to Tehran by Konadze and earlier by Primakov. We are optimistic that in view of the past record of excellent cooperation between Tehran and Moscow on Nagorno-Karabakh and the Caucasus, we will be able to cooperate on the issue of restoring peace and stability in Tajikistan as well. We consider it our main obligation to create an atmosphere of trust between the two sides. It is natural that we cannot sit at the conference table and simultaneously continue to fight a war.

Nagorno-Karabakh

The contacts that we had recently with Iranian officials on Nagorno-Karabakh were extremely hopeful. The opinion of the two sides on the issue and a political solution are very similar in many aspects. We know that Iran had sought to bring Armenia and Azerbaijan to the negotiating table. Perhaps at that time the issues were

more complicated. However, I do not believe that Iran's efforts will be forgotten. This does not happen in the contemporary world.

A new phenomenon has occurred now that Geydar Aliyev has assumed power in Baku. They were able to make direct contact with Stepanakert (Khankendi) and the CSCE and the United Nations also sought to work on the issue. The Security Council recently approved a unanimous resolution regarding the latest aggression and the occupation of Agdam. In any case, we are optimistic that with the effort of both sides and other countries, we will be able to resolve the issue soon. [passage omitted]

[ABRAR] My next question is on the issue of the Persian Gulf. It was reported that Russia and Kuwait are to sign a military accord in the month of Mehr [23 September-22 October].

[Tretyakov] I know nothing about this.

[ABRAR] The Kuwaiti defense minister mentioned it. In any case, what is the Russian concept of "security" in the Persian Gulf? Is it possible for foreign forces to establish security or will the efforts of the regional countries be more useful in this regard?

[Tretyakov] The regional countries have a fundamental and undeniable role in ensuring the security and stability of the Persian Gulf. We therefore favor resolving problems among the regional countries, such as between Iran and the UAE, Iraq and other Arab countries, and Iran and Iraq. We believe that all the countries of the region should discuss their problems with one another so that an atmosphere replete with friendship and understanding can be created.

I believe that this will in itself eliminate the issue of the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf. Of course, the main interests are those of the regional countries. However, since today the countries of the world are closer together, one cannot say that they do not have interests in the region.

There are countries that are not in this area but have interests here such as Japan, which imports oil from here. Hence, it is to Japan's benefit that there should be a smooth flow of oil. Russia shares these interests. We have not yet bought any oil from this region but we may later!

In any case, the Persian Gulf has an immense geostrategic [preceding word in English] importance for us. We benefit from the establishment of peace and stability in this region. This is because the Persian Gulf is near the CIS and Russia, in particular. Just as we are seeking to resolve the problems in Tajikistan, we may try to establish peace by signing bilateral accords.

In this regard, Russia and Iran are working on an agreement that would prevent dangerous military operations and benefit both sides. The credibility of the two countries will rise considerably on the international level after this accord is signed. This is because it will affirm that these two countries are not in favor of war or dangerous military operations.

[ABRAR] You mentioned the prevention of any military operations in the region. In your opinion, is it possible that by declaring the Persian Gulf a demilitarized zone the safety of the region would be better safeguarded?

[Tretyakov] That would be ideal, but this would be subject to certain conditions. First, all the countries in the region should convene talks and come to a collective decision. They should then formulate a comprehensive multilateral system for the Persian Gulf. Many drafts have been signed that have never been implemented, such as the Damascus Declaration and the Gulf Cooperation Council agreement.

[ABRAR] The reason for the nonimplementation of these accords and agreements is that not all the countries of the region, such as Iran and Iraq, were included.

[Tretyakov] Yes. The relations between Iran and the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf will improve after the visit by your Foreign Minister Velayati to these countries for joint discussions on the security and stability of the region.

Now, just suppose that a joint system has been formulated with regard to the security of the Persian Gulf. This would not be enough in itself. In any case, there are some foreign forces that intend to interfere. To ward off this possibility, the United Nations or the Security Council should provide guarantees for the working of this system, which would hinder any willful moves by any one of the members of the United Nations or Security Council in the Persian Gulf.

[ABRAR] My next question is related to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. There are many who believe that the Russians are preventing the international operations to save the Bosnian Muslims and are supporting the Serbs.

[Tretyakov] I do not know the source of such reports. All I do know is that our Foreign Minister Kozyrev announced in the Philippines that Moscow is ready to place its airplanes at the disposal of the UN secretary general if he agrees to dispatch forces from Islamic countries.

[ABRAR] An issue arises here. There is a dichotomy in Russian foreign policy in certain cases regarding the Middle East, Bosnia-Herzegovina, India, and so on. We see one stand taken by the Russian Foreign Ministry and another by the Russian parliament. Most of the foreign policy issues are affected by parliament's decisions.

[Tretyakov] More than anything else, I should stress that the Foreign Ministry is the main implementer of Russian foreign policy and has done a lot of work on the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina. We have many ambassadors who have conferred with the warring sides and even with the Iranian ambassador in Moscow. Our roving ambassador Vitaliy Churkin has also informed your ambassador of his talks with the warring sides. We also apprised your country's officials of the pressure we have exerted on the Serbs.

We are well aware that Iran has very cordial ties with the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. We know what the Iranian stance is on lifting the arms embargo from Bosnia-Herzegovina. We believe that if more weapons are brought into the region it will only result in the proliferation of the conflict. It is being said that the Bosnian Muslims do not have access to arms but I have some doubts. If there are no arms how can there be such a protracted conflict?

[ABRAR] Let us suppose that the Bosnian Muslims receive arms. Your remark is not very realistic as they are deprived of heavy artillery such as tanks, warplanes, and cannons. Can the dispatch of light weapons such as rifles and machine guns stop the Serbs, who are armed to the teeth?

[Tretyakov] I cannot say anything in this regard. I was not there to see the amount of weapons the Muslims have. I do know that they do not have warplanes. I just believe that providing heavy weapons in these circumstances is not judicious. Let us suppose that the United Nations lifts the arms embargo and gives heavy weapons to the Bosnian Muslims. What then? You know that there are those who would immediately give the Serbs more military assistance. Would that be a favorable state of affairs?

[ABRAR] It is certain that the proliferation of the conflict does not benefit any side. However, the Serbs continue their attacks, and no one has stopped them.

[Tretyakov] In any case, we believe that neither side should get weapons. Another issue is the stationing of UN forces in the region. If they are deployed in most of the areas, they will gradually become one of the sides involved in the conflict. This would not be correct. The warring sides should discuss their differences and declare their willingness for separation from one another. In that case, the peacekeeping forces will be able to play their role well.

[ABRAR] My last question regards the West's financial assistance to Russia. Many Western countries claimed that they would provide extensive financial assistance to Russia but according to Russian officials' remarks, this assistance has come through. On the other hand, the West is imposing conditions on Moscow's actions. For example, Japan has linked its financial assistance to the return of the Kuril islands, while the United States is demanding the acceleration of reforms in Russia, at a time when Russia is in the throes of an economic crisis emanating from such reforms. What is your opinion?

[Tretyakov] There are two factors. For many years the West has been talking about financial aid to Moscow. This was mentioned by Reagan and then Bush when Gorbachev was the leader. First they promised billions of dollars but now they are talking only of $45 billion [as published]. [passage omitted]

Our present situation resembles that of Iran. In my opinion, some Western countries such as Japan say that they are ready to award a loan of $1.5 billion to Iran but in practice, a large part of this is not given.

It is clear that in Japan, the United States, and Europe, there are certain circles ready to invest in Russia. There are also others who—despite the fact that the Cold War has ended—wish to take unfair advantage of Russia and the other CIS countries. They do not want Russia to evolve into a strong pole on the international relations scene. They want Russia to remain a producer of raw materials so that they can give a few $10 billion loans to it.

On the other hand, we want our economy to be upgraded in accordance with the international economies, and therefore we are forced to accept the conditions laid down by the IMF and the World Bank.

Caspian Sea States To Coordinate Caviar Trade

LD2408105793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The delegations representing the Caspian Sea littoral states, in continuation of their meeting in the port of Anzali, reached some agreement on sea trade and supply of caviar to the international market. On the basis of this agreement, the countries participating at the meeting will coordinate efforts in the supply and sale of sturgeon caviar and other marine products in the international market.

The meeting of the littoral states began on 21 August and will continue until 26 August. The participating countries are Russia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Investigation of German Embassy Refugee Begins

LD2408121893 Tehran IRNA in English 1121 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA—An informed source at Iran's Foreign Ministry Tuesday [24 August] said investigations were underway over the case of a German national who had taken refuge in German Embassy here after being accused of alleged embezzlement. Meanwhile, the German Government has reportedly announced it would not surrender its citizen to the Iranian judicial authorities.

A German Foreign Ministry spokesman Monday told reporters that handing over of German nationals to a foreign country is banned according to the German Constitution.

The accused German national has taken shelter at German Embassy here since July 28, claiming he had escaped prison. German newspapers have reported that he is accused of embezzlement in connection with an arms deal for the Bosnian Muslims.

Velayati Discusses Relations With Indian Naval Chief

LD2408143193 Tehran IRNA in English 1354 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA—Indian Navy Commander Ram Das and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today discussed Tehran-New Delhi relations and bilateral and and regional cooperation. Das referred to the "positive" trend of cooperation between the two Asian states, hailing as "important" the Islamic Republic of Iran's role in the region. Velayati in return pointed to the importance of the strategic Indian Ocean region and called as "important", cooperation among the regional countries to maintain peace and stability.

Iraqi Refugees Continue To Arrive From Basra Area

LD2208202593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1830 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Following the Iraqi regime's inhuman treatment of Muslim inhabitants in the southern provinces of that country, another group of inhabitants of the Mudaynah region in the districts of Basra Province has entered the Islamic Republic of Iran via the southern borders. The majority of these refugees are women and children. They have all been given refuge at the site in the Dasht-e Azadegan region where Iraqi refugees are based.

According to the Central News Unit, one of the Iraqi refugees said: The Iraqi regime's forces destroyed our houses and a large number of the inhabitants of Mudaynah have been arrested because of opposition to Saddam and have been transferred to an unknown location.

Another Iraqi refugees said: The people of the southern parts of Iraq, especially those living in the Hur region, are living under the most desperate conditions because of shortages of food and because the Iraqi regime has drained parts of the marshlands.

According to the central News Unit, the sound of heavy weapons fire from the Iraqi regime's onslaught against the people of that country was heard clearly along the border strips on Saturday night.

Tehran Radio on Implications of Merbah Assassination

NC2308101093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Commentary by News Commentaries Group]

[Text] The assassination of Kasdi Merbah, the former Algerian prime minister, once again brings home the fact that this trend of violence is a two-way street and the only way to end it is through national reconciliation and increasing participation by the people.

Many political experts believe that the assassination of Merbah and four of his companions could have been planned and implemented by Islamist opponents. If this is true, Merbah's assassination can be considered a part of the chain of violence that has gripped Algeria. The Algerian Government's action two years ago of disregarding the results of parliamentary elections and detaining a majority of the people's representatives, labeling them disruptive elements and saboteurs, was followed by a popular reaction. The government then embarked on killings, arrests, imprisonment, and the execution of opponents, which were to become the most conspicuous examples of its policy everyday.

The assassination attempt against Egyptian Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi is another example of the repetitive nature of these trends, which indicate that the government's terroristic apparatus eventually fall victim to the violence it has generated itself.

The report by some Algerian officials that some Israeli-manufactured UZ machine guns were found near the scene of the incident point to another basis for an analysis of this incident. The involvement of the Zionist regime in such incidents as part of a strategy does not seem unlikely. Right from its outset the Zionist regime has sought to consolidate its despotic position in the region and the world for two purposes. First, to create discord and contention among Arab and Islamic countries and exacerbate internal differences to undermine them and thus widen the chasm between the Arab and Islamic countries to prevent all kinds of national, ethnic, and Islamic unity. The killing of Kasdi Merbah can be considered as part of this effort.

Second, the Zionist regime resorts to actions that will create greater unity between Christians and international Zionism against the world. The remarks by a high-level escapee [farari] from the Mosad regarding that organization's involvement in the New York explosion meant to intensify the West's fear of what it describes as Islamic fundamentalism is an example of these efforts by the Zionist regime.

Political observers believe that as long as Arab and Islamic countries do not recognize the rights of their people and deny them any participation in deciding their destinies, the wave of violence will continue and will provide opportunities for enemies to infiltrate. This trend will only end when governments make peace with their people and the efforts of the governments and its opposition—instead of undermining one another—will be directed toward resolving crises and reconstructing their countries.

Culture Minister Assails West's Portrayal of Islam

LD2308182593 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance 'Ali Larijani today lashed out at the

West for portraying Islam as a militant and political religion, when in fact Islam is an ideological and cultural school.

Larijani, addressing the annual gathering of heads of Iranian diplomatic missions abroad, also condemned the West's propaganda campaign aimed at tarnishig the image of Islam.

The minister underlined the need for continuation of dialogues between divine religions with an aim of finding out their commonalities and consequently bringing them closer.

Larijani, saying that it was impossible to separate man from his cultural identity, noted that paying special attention to infrastructural cultural activities was a must.

Allies Said Not Interested in U.S. Foreign Policy

LD2308121193 Tehran IRNA in English 1148 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—The Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Monday [23 August] commented on recent remarks made by an American official against Iran and said Clinton administration is testing his chance once again to exert further pressures on Iran.

Pointing to the U.S. insistence to convince its European allies to exert economic pressures on Iran, the editorial said "Under the status quo even Washington itself was doubtful whether spiteful policies of Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his aides would be successful."

In fact, the paper said, Clinton's administration had been pressured to ballyhoo against the Islamic Republic of Iran, hoping to encourage its European allies to do so.

Apparently, the inexperienced Christopher would achieve nothing out of his revengeful policies but defeat, the same defeat he experienced in the past few months.

The article noted that Washington was bitterly feeling its Middle East policy had been failed and that the compromising Arab-Israeli talks had turned into useless and ridiculous negotiations.

The U.S. officials, it said, have come to the conclusion that the only opposition against the compromising talks comes from followers of the universal Islamic movement.

It added that Washington hoped to force Iran to abandon its opposition through imposing political pressures and by staging propaganda ballyhoo.

If so, Washington could then help the Zionists to reach their goals and pull the U.S. Middle East policy out of the present stalemate, wrote the editorial.

"Whatever goals and incentives Washington follows, the reality is that U.S. allies have so far proved they are not interested in having a share in U.S. problems and turn American difficulties into their own problems."

It concluded by saying that the West and the U.S. have for years experienced the bitter taste of their unsuccessful economic-technical sanction against Iran and found out in practice that when such policies deployed against Iran failed to be materialized. [sentence as received]

President Meets With Irish Parliament Speaker

LD2408220193 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA—Visiting Irish Parliament Speaker, Sean Triacy met with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tuesday [24 Tuesday] and expressed his government's keenness on promotion of Tehran-Dublin ties.

Triacy stated that the process of development and construction in Iran was the result of the nation's desire for independence. He hoped the current visit of the Irish parliamentary delegation will speed up process of social, political and economic collaboration between the two countries.

President Rafsanjani welcomed the idea for deepening of mutual relations and said that as a first step the two countries should identify the existing potentials for cooperation.

He also expressed hope that the visit of the Irish delegation will pave the way for further broadening of bilateral relations.

East African Shipping Line Begins Operation in Kenya

LD2408184893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's shipping line to east African ports has begun operation. With the first Iranian ship entering the port of Mombasa, Iran-Kenya shipping line was opened amid ceremonies attended by our country's Charge d' Affairs [in Kenya], the director-general of Kenyan ports, and a group of Mombasa port's officials. This shipping line will facilitate better exchange of goods and will help the expansion of bilateral trade relations. It will also serve as a positive step toward creating closer relations between Iran and Kenya.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Laser Technology Conference

LD2308115693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: As you heard earlier in the news, the second international conference on laser technology and its application opened in Tehran this morning with a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Scholars, researchers, and nuclear industry

experts from 18 countries of the world are participating in the conference. Our correspondent reports on this.

[Correspondent] In his message the president pointed out that Islam has been a vanguard and a supporter of science and knowledge throughout history and considers the application of science in the service of mankind as the biggest example of worship. He stated: The Islamic Republic of Iran, in accordance with its peace-seeking and philanthropic objectives, has not refrained and will not refrain from any efforts to expand and promote the application of science and modern technology and to make it available to all countries which desire to advance their development and employ the results of research workers' efforts toward overcoming obstacles which prevent progress for all nations.

In another part of his message, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed regret at the fact that in this decade a series of rules and regulations introduced by the developed industrial states have made it much more difficult for developing countries to gain access to technology. He declared: This problem has pushed up the cost of gaining access to modern technology to an unacceptable level and has slowed progress. As a result, the gap between the North and the South has widened. In practice, the undesirable consequences of poverty and the absence of international balance will affect the countries of the North, too. For this same reason human society attaches its hopes to the role that committed and benevolent scientists can play by refusing to place the fruit of their efforts at the disposal of the world-devourers' greed.

He expressed the hope that the establishment of relations among nations and particularly the scholars of the contemporary world and the convention of scientific seminars and meetings, such as this one, will help to solve this problem.

Afterward, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Agency made a speech in which he described the nature of light and the history of its development and application. He said: A Muslim scholar, Ibn-e Isam, was the founder of this branch of science. By building instruments to study light, he paved the way for mankind to understand the behavior of light particles. Gradually, the scientists developed the techniques leading to laser production today. [passage omitted]

A message from Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, was then read. The message, stressing the importance of laser technology and its application in the nuclear industry, particularly in improving the quality of the manufactured parts and equipment for nuclear reactors, expressed congratulations on the convention of such a high-level scientific conference in Iran and wished the participants success in the greater exchange of views and promotion of this kind of technology.

Heavy Industries Minister on Production, Investment

LD2308090493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0245 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Studio interview with Heavy Industries Minister Mohammad Hadi Nezhad-Hoseynian by unidentified correspondent; carried in the "Life and Work" program—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] Mr. Minister, if you are willing, let us now turn to the activities and achievements of the Ministry of Heavy Industries. Please.

[Nezhad-Hoseynian] Let me say that, with regard to the achievements of the country's heavy industries sector during the past four years, I can refer to several indicators used in the first [five-year] plan for the assessment of the industrial sector's activities.

In the field of production, the indicator used to measure growth in production in industry in the first plan is the growth of added value in the industrial sector. The plan's forecast put the average annual growth rate at 14.2 percent. The actual rate of growth in the heavy industries sector during the past four years has been 34.8 percent—that is, 2.5 times more than the predicted figure.

In the three sectors of investment, mediatory and consumer industries, the figures are as follows: In investment industries, the predicted growth rate was 24 percent; the actual growth, 39.5 percent. In mediatory industries, the predicted growth rate was 20 percent; the actual growth, 29.9 percent. And, in the consumer industries, the predicted growth rate was 4.2 percent; the actual growth 14.8 percent.

Thus, as you can see, in the production sector, the actual growth rate has been much higher than the rate forecast in the plan. In the heavy industries' investment sector, from the point of view of foreign exchange investment, the actual investment during the past four years has exceeded the figure forecast in the plan by 19 percent. The forecast figure was $1.4 billion; the actual figure, 1.7 billion [figure only as heard]. In terms of investment in domestic currency, the forecast figure over the five years was for 74 billion rials of investment in the heavy industries sector. During the past four years, there has been 110 billion rials of investment; that is, approximately 80 percent more than the forecast figure.

In the export sector, we are behind the figure forecast in the plan for the year 1371 [year beginning 21 March 1992]. Nonetheless, the growth rate of exports in the heavy industries sector has been higher than the figure for other industrial sectors. From the figure of about $4 million in the year 1367 [year beginning 21 March 1988], we have reached the figure of about $200 million in 1371. This is a very good growth rate. And the business of heavy industries exports, which mostly relates to small

industrial units, has grown remarkably. I will mention a few figures: in 1368 [year beginning 21 March 1989], we had 18 exporting companies, which were exporting 27 items to 16 countries; whereas, in 1371, we had 115 exporting companies exporting 126 items to 40 countries. [passage omitted]

Announces Plan To Aid Deprived Regions

LD2408195093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Industries Minister Mr. Ne'matzadeh has announced: On the basis of Note 52 of the Budget Law, the government will pay 70 percent of banking interests related to industries that are active in deprived areas. He was speaking on the first day of Government Week. He pointed out that the government is really keen on eliminating the problems faced by the deprived regions of the country. He said: In 1368 [1989] the level of industrial investment in the deprived areas was approximately $30 million and rose in 1371 [1992] to $150 million.

In describing the most important achievements of the Industries Ministry during the past four years, the minister pointed out that factories have reached a satisfactory capacity and there is an upward trend in production. He noted that in general there are enough goods on the market at present, and over 20 projects of cement production and several tire-manufacturing projects are in the process of being implemented; and five other projects will become operational by the end of this year [20 March 1994].

He said: Right now, over 6,000 industrial projects are being implemented throughout the country by people and over the past four years, more than 4,000 industrial projects were completed.

The industries minister explained: In the field of industrial exports, thanks to the efforts of the country's industrialists, the level of exports rose from 70 million rials in 1368 to 350 million in 1371, and more than 30,000 agreements in principle have been granted in the industrial field.

Minister Comments on Problem of Medicine Shortage

LD2408161093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] On the basis of a decision taken by the Supreme Economic Council, the price of medicine has increased in recent days. The high price of medicine and the simultaneous shortage of some medical items have created problems for the people. Due to the importance of the medicine issue, the Cabinet reviewed the matter during its Sunday session. We went to interview Mr. Marandi, minister of hygiene, treatment, and medical training, and asked him to give further details on the reason for the price rise and the Cabinet's decision to overcome the existing problems in the fields of medicine.

As our first question we asked the minister: Why did the price of medicine go up?

[Marandi] "There is, in fact, only one answer and that is, up to now we used to import medicine at the official subsidized rate of seven tumans. We were dealing at this rate both for the imported medicine and for the imported raw material to be used in the pharmaceutical industries in the country. Thanks to an approved bill of the esteemed Cabinet, some foreign currency is also given to us at a floating rate to import medicine and the raw material required for manufacturing medicines at home. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] "What is the reason for the shortage of medicine?

[Marandi] "There are several reasons for the shortage. The main reason is the limited amount of foreign currency placed at the disposal of the Ministry and the state-run medicine manufacturing factories. [passage omitted] Another reason is that if we owe money to some factories which export medicine or raw material to Iran, they will not sell any more commodities to us. This is partly because they wish to put pressure to bear on our country. Fortunately the Central Bank agreed to settle these debts. We, therefore, will not be in debt any more, and these companies will no longer have any excuse not to sell us medicine or raw material, God willing. This will make it easier to import medicine rapidly.

"Another point is that we have had some difficulties with the entry and customs clearance process; so the Cabinet also approved that the factory or the importer should be able, God willing, to take the goods directly to their warehouses so as to avoid delays and difficulties for people. The factory director or the person in charge of the import organization can then guarantee that the relevant documents will be quickly placed at the disposal of the Central Bank.

"The last point that was approved is that when, in accordance with former practice, we used to send these invoices to some factories abroad and asked them to sell us a particular item, they would do this quite easily in the past. Now, again in order not to carry out their commitments, foreign factories want the Central Bank to also give its endorsement and confirmation that this debt would be paid without delay. The Central Bank has undertaken to do this, God willing, we hope that all these coordinations will be carried out as soon as possible so that we may overcome the difficulties faced by people and therefore also save our own face."

[Reporter] Medicine shortage is a problem. Most people believe, in this regard, that a substantial proportion of these shortages are artificially created and that the centers for the production and distribution of medicine are

also to be blamed. We asked Health Minister Marandi about this. His reply revealed some interesting facts.

[Marandi] "The fact that the price of medicine has increased will itself have a great impact on the availability of medicine. The producers, distributors, and pharmacists had already spent some of their investment on the manufacture of these pharmaceuticals using the floating rate of exchange and knew that the price of their products will inevitably go up—because there had been talk of prices going up for some time—and thus stored away some of these products, or, at least, some of them did. Now that this price has gone up and this has been approved—that is, it was said that, yes, there was nothing more to say, the price has gone up—these medicines, will therefore be sold now. Of course, I should say right here that his excellency the president emphasized that there are no plans right now to increase the price of medicine until, hopefully, the national insurance law is ratified by the Majles so that especially the vulnerable and deprived strata in society will not suffer from a renewed rise in prices. Thus, the prices are not due to rise until, God willing, that law is passed. Of course, this does not mean that all kinds of medicines are available in adequate quantities in the country. If they were, we would not need these measures. We will still be embarrassed in front of our dear people for a while."

[Reporter] Dr. Marandi, minister of health, treatment, and medical training, said that for fear of making promises that he could not keep, he did not want to give a specific date for the promised improvement in the state of medicine. He referred to the question of the smuggling of medicine, saying: Since medicine is supplied in our country at a low price and at a high quality, this has led to it being smuggled from here to the markets of other countries. Also profiteers benefit from the shortage of some kinds of medicine and sell them in the black market. For these reasons, serious measures have been adopted to supervise the distribution and sale of medicine and also to punish those who indulge in the smuggling of medicine. These measures will come into operation as from today. [passage omitted]

Mortality Rate for Children, Mothers Declines

LD2408132493 Tehran IRNA in English 1213 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA—The mortality rate of children under the age of one has declined from 44.8 per thousand in the Iranian calendar year 1367 (1988-1989) to 33 per thousand in 1371 (1991-1992). During the said period, the mortality rate of mothers who died of pregnancy has fallen from 90 per hundred thousand in 1367 to 40 per hundred thousand in 1371. The above-mentioned figures appeared in a report on the performance of the government during the past four years, published on the occasion of "Government Week," started today.

The report noted that during the same period, a total of 5,267 rural and urban health care centers established and 4,700 villages provided with piped water and other sanitary services. Also, proportion of domestic production of medicine to its domestic consumption rose up from 86 percent in 1367 to 94 percent in 1371, the report said.

Statistics Show Vast Improvement in Literacy Rate

LD2408100393 Tehran IRNA in English 0938 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA—Statistics show that literacy rate in Iran improved from 62.2 percent for the Iranian calendar year 1367 (1988-1989) to 72.1 percent in 1371 (1991-92). The figures indicate to the fact that government performance with regard to illiteracy campaign has been ahead of stipulations in the first five-year development plan, ending March 1994. Statistics also show that since the plan was laucnhed in 1989, the number of school students has increased by 6.8 percent annually.

A total of 12.817 million students attended schools in 1367 while the figure increased to 16.657 million in 1371. Also, the number of classrooms increased from 394,000 in 1367 to 515,000 in 1371, an increase of 6.9 percent per year. The government allocated 20.9 percent of its general budget to education in 1371 whereas the figure now amounts to 23.2 percent.

The statistics were part of a report on four-year perfomance of the government published on the occasion of "Government Week", started Tuesday [24 August]. The government spent rls. 51,700 for each pupil in 1367 while the figure soared to rls. 144,000 in 1371, up by 29.2 percent, the report said.

Nepal & Bhutan

King, Queen To Pay State Visit to PRC in September

BK2008152193 Kathmandu Radio Nepal in English 1415 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Their majesties the king and queen will pay a state visit to the People's Republic of China in the third week of September 1993 at the invitation of President Jiang Zemin of the People's Republic of China. This visit will contribute to further consolidating and strengthening the traditional friendship between (?Nepal) and China. [passage indistinct]

Prime Minister Says Indian Refugees To Be Repatriated

BK2208133893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1304 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 22 (AFP)—Some 85 percent of the 100,000 refugees that have flooded into Nepal from Bhutan are Bhutanese, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala was quoted as saying Sunday [22 August].

The premier, quoted by state radio, said the identity of the remaining 15 percent would be would be investigated and that if they turned out to be Indians, they would be repatriated while those found to be Nepalese would be settled in Nepal.

"If they happen to be non Bhutanese Indians or Nepalese, the Indians will be repatriated to India through official talks with the Indian Government and if they happen to be the Nepalese they will be rehabiliated somewhere in Nepal" he said.

Talks are tentatively scheduled for later this month between Nepal and Bhutan on the future of the refugees who are now housed in different camps in Morang and Jhapa districts.

A foreign ministry source said Sunday the government hoped for information on the proposed visit of the Bhutanese ministerial delegation soon after the departure of the Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narsimha Rao, who is now visiting Bhutanese capital of Thimpu.

A Bhutanese source in Kathmandu said that during the talks with King Jigme Singye Wangchuk, Rao had expressed his confidence that "quiet diplomacy" offered best chance of a solution to the problem.

The refugees, mostly Hindus of Nepalese descent, cite persecution at the hands of Thimpu authorities enforcing a rigid Bhutanese cultural code.

Britain Grants Aid for Community Forestry Projects

BK2408140493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1106 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 24 (AFP)—Great Britain has extended a grant assistance of 9.94 million dollars for the implementation of community forestry projects in Nepal, the finance ministry said Tuesday [24 August].

Of the total, 9.02 million dollars will be made available as technical assistance and the balance will be provided as capital assistance for five years to run the project, a ministry press release said.

Notes on the grant were signed and exchanged between Thakur Nath Pant, Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Timothy George, British Ambassador to Nepal, on behalf of their respective governments.

"Within the period of five years, the project aims at developing a community forestry capability within the department of forests, establishing and supporting 600 forest user groups managing about 12,000 hectares of forest," the release said.

The grant will also be used to help develop a policy of sustainable management of forests and reduction of forest degradation.

"The Nepalese government has expressed its sincere appreciation to the government of the United Kingdom for the assistance and also for its keen interest in the socio-economic development of Nepal," the press release added.

Pakistan

Authorities Unable To Trace Egyptian Militants

BK2208153793 Hong Kong AFP in English 1521 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 22 (AFP)—The foreign ministry here said Saturday [21 August] that Pakistani authorities had so far not been able to trace suspected Egyptian Islamic militants whose extradition had reportedly been sought by Cairo.

The Egyptian government had requested information on a number of Egyptians to determine whether or not they were residing in Pakistan, a foreign ministry official said.

Among the names provided by Egyptian police is Ayman Al-Zawahri, the man suspected by them of masterminding Wednesday's failed assassination attempt on Interior Minister Hassan Al-Alfi in Cairo.

"So far the concerned authorities have been unable to trace the named persons," the foreign ministry official added.

A government official in Cairo Saturday asked the Pakistani authorities to restart negotiations for speeding the extradition of Egyptian Islamic militants, who are former mojahedin in Afghanistan.

The militants were said to be based in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar, which is close to Afghanistan's border.

"The government of Pakistan is providing full information to the Egyptian government regarding its nationals who may be present in Pakistan," the foreign ministry official here said.

He pointed out that Cairo had not made a formal request for extradition as there was no such treaty between the two countries.

The Egyptian government had also not provided "any concrete evidence against any Egyptian which would justify his arrest, if found in Pakistan," he said.

The official said Pakistan had made it clear to the Arabs associated with Afghan groups that the Jehad or holy war in Afghanistan was over and had asked all such people to leave its territory.

"Many of these Arabs have moved into Afghanistan with the Afghan Tanzeemaat (organizations) that they were supporting while others have left for third countries," he added.

"Pakistan's policy is not to allow its territory to become a safe haven for extremist elements who may wish to operate against third countries," the official said.

If any such individual infiltrates into Pakistan, he would be proceeded against in accordance with the law, he said.

"The government would also be within its right to extradite him for any crime committed abroad for which concrete evidence is presented," the official said.

Many of the Egyptians believed to be in Pakistan fought with the Mojahedin against the Soviet occupying forces who invaded Afghanistan in 1979 and withdrew a decade later.

The Afghan ambassador in Egypt said earlier this month his country could not extradite some 300 Egyptian militants still in Afghanistan since there was no extradition treaty between the two countries.

Commentary Views Indian 'Harassment' of Diplomats

BK2108120293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Commentary by A.B.S. Jafri: "Persistent Harassment of Pakistani Diplomatic Personnel in India"]

[Text] The Government of Pakistan has once again complained to the Government of India against persistent harassment and intimidation of this country's diplomatic personnel serving in India. The Pakistani diplomatic staff assigned to serve in their mission in India take it for granted that a certain measure of irritations are part of their professional hazard of serving in India. A great deal of mistreatment and insolence from Indian lower bureaucracy and police in uniform and (?series) is just taken in the stride as part of the kind of life one must endure in the capital of India and elsewhere in that country. If one has to serve one's country in India, one must be ready for routine indignities and annoyances. But, when all this maltreatment passes beyond the level of the tolerance of the most uncomplaining people, there is no way to react except to protest and complain and to bring these on record.

Pakistan and India are perhaps the only two neighbors in the world who seem to be engaged in the pettiest form of bickering, and most of the time over trivialities. Granted there are historic reasons for a certain measure of estrangement between Pakistan and India; granted also that quite frequently the temperature shoots up with any visible reason or without, but there are two ways of dealing with a situation taking a distasteful turn. One, to defuse it, looking at the cause for the irritation and try to remove it by talking things over. Even saying sorry when it is clear who has been in the error and then to forget about it. That is the civil manner of ironing out ruffled situations. Unfortunately, the Indian attitude to everything pertaining to its neighbors is incurably infected with arrogance. India can do no wrong because India is India and it is big enough to bully anyone around when it should be so disposed. That is the general pattern of behavior—Nepal knows it, Sri Lanka knows it, Bhutan knows it. At one time, Tibet knew it. Even distant Maldives must be kept constantly aware of the fact that India must be kept happy or else.

For Pakistan, there is very special dispensation. The treatment meted out to Pakistan as a neighbor and to its diplomatic personnel as guests is that generally reserved for errant school boys by particularly ill-tempered teachers. There are only don'ts for Pakistan's diplomats in India. There are no-go areas. There are other impediments and restrictions on normal movement in even shopping plazas. A Pakistani diplomat can be picked up while buying nothing more (?lethal) than lady's fingers [okra] at a green (?grocer's).

Not long ago, a stage was reached when it began to appear the two countries just could not manage to maintain their diplomatic missions in each other's capitals. The situation having reached the breaking point, New Delhi agreed to the formulation of a special code of conduct for the missions of the two countries. There should have been no need for a separate code of conduct in the presence of internationally respected conventions on the treatment of guest diplomats by host governments. But, as India insists that its relations with Pakistan must have a stamp of peculiarity, the code of conduct was worked out with no small effort. Now, we have had that special code of conduct to regulate treatment of Pakistani diplomats in India as, indeed, Indian diplomats in Pakistan. The French and Germans have centuries of feuding and fighting in their history. They are next-door neighbors, but they do not treat each other as brutes. Why is it that there must be maltreatment of Pakistanis in India? The only explanation, if explanation it can be called, is that bashing of Pakistani diplomatic personnel has become a part of Indian attitude. It would be unfair to blame the poor policemen whose duty it is to rough up Pakistani diplomats. They are acting on orders. The temper is bad, but it is the temper of the government, not the cop on the street corner.

Visiting Sudanese Minister Rejects Terrorism Charges

BK2408130393 Islamabad THE NATION in English 24 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Sudan's Minister of State for Finance 'Abd-al Wahhab Ahmad Hamzah has said that his country's Islamic orientation is the sole reason for the United States to declare it a terrorist nation and that this decision clearly shows the American government's enmity to Islams.

The Sudanese minister, who is currently on an offiFial visit to Pakistan was addressing a press conference on Monday. He categorically denied the charges of terrorism slapped on his country by the US saying that the US had no evidence to support its accustions. "We challenge the US to bring forward any evidence of terrorism by Sudan," he said.

The United States included Sudan in the list of countries supporting terrorism on August 18, stating that the

Sudanese government was allowing terrorist groups to operate from its soil. The Americans took this decision after having kept Sudan on a watch- list for six months. The final decider were reports linking the Sudanese government to terrorists who had planned to bomb sites in New York. The plan was uncovered by American officials in June this year. Sudan has denied any such link.

The Sudanese minister told journalists that his government had been inviting US officials to come to Sudan and discuss the issue with then but they had not received any response. "What we received instead was this decision," he said, and added, "we still invite them to come over and verify the charges if they can." Coming back to the issue of [words indistinct] seven countries on the US terrorist list, five were Muslim nations. These include Libya, Iraq, Iran, Syria and Sudan. The other two are Cuba and North Korea. He also lambasted the US for its double standards saying that they (the Americans) had turned a blind eye towards the terrorism taking place in Bosnia, Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied territories.

The minister said the real terrorist in Sudan was the rebel leader who was operating from the south of the country. According to him, the Americans had received him as a state functionary. Answering a question, he said that his government would raise the terrorist charge in the United Nations and other international fora to tell the international community how Sudan had been victimized. Other nations could also suffer at the hands of the US, he said, because "the US is against any government which follows the Shariah." He explained that the US was zeroing in on selected countries using human rights and other issues as an excuse.

When asked about a charge that Sudan was aiding Somalian warlord General Farah Aideed, the minister said that this was a ridiculous charge. "This is absolutely rubbish" he remarked.

The Sudanese minister also talked about the suspension of his country's voting rights in the international Monetary fund (IMF). He informed journalists that IMF had stopped all aid to Sudan as far back as 1982. But the economy of Sudan continues to gow steadily, he said. He stated that in 1989 Sudan's growth rate was 1 per cent. Within two years it had jumped to 11 per cent and in 1992-93, it was 13 per cent. This, he said had been achieved by opening up the economy and privartising state-owned enterprises. He said negotiations with IMF had been underway to further improve the eocnomy but at the last minute the IMF had stalled negotiation on the issue of paying back old arrears by Sudan. Now the IMF is demanding $70 million per month from Sudan. All this, the minister said, was being done because of Sudan's Islamic orientation.

Countries which are put on the terrorist list became ineligible for almost all US aid. The Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu- Salih had said earlier during a private visit to Saudi Arabia: "If the purpose of the American decision is to scare Sudan or force it to retreat from the Islamic path it has taken, this will not happen."

Meanwhile Arab officials are reported to have revealed that a Saudi businessman hs financed the transfer of Arab veterans of the Afghan war, from Pakistan and Afghanistan to Sudan. There they are allegedly housed in camps and are being trained by Iranians. Both Iran and Sudan deny any links with Muslim activist groups involved in terrorist activities.

Nepalese Prime Minister Meets Qureshi, Discusses Ties

BK2408144493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, called on the caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, at the prime minister's house in Islamabad today. They discussed bilateral relations and ways and means to strengthen ties between the two countries. Both leaders also agreed that economic and commercial ties need special attention and should be increased to match the level of their political relations. Mr. Moin Qureshi welcomed the Nepalese prime minister who is on a private visit. Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala expressed the hope that he would soon be visiting Pakistan officially.

Fake U.S. Visa Racket Discovered

BK2208095193 Karachi DAWN in English 19 Aug 93 p 16

[Text] Karachi Aug 18—The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has unearthed racket in which a US visa officer in South Africa was illegally issuing visas to Pakistanis after receiving $3,000 to $6,000 from them as a bribe.

A senior FIA official claimed that some agents used to send passports to a South Africa-based Pakistani exporters, Mohammed Haroon, who after affixing fake immigration entry and exit stamps of South Africa and Pakistan, hand them over to Mr Haris Speed, a US Visa Officer in Lilongwe, for the issuance of US visa.

After the issuance of visa, the passports were sent back to Pakistan either by hand or by courier service. The FIA also arrested two Pakistanis Barkat Ali and Amir (?Ali), and recovered three pasports from their possession with forged US visa.

A case has been registered against the suspeFts under Passport Act.

Bhutto Comments on Elections, Economic Reforms

BK2408055593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP], has said that the party's Central Executive Committee will meet in Karachi today to give final

shape to the party's manifesto and prepare an election campaign program. Talking to reporters in Karachi yesterday, she said there has been some understanding with the Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group on some seats in Punjab, but no electoral agreement has been reached so far. She said there has been neither an electoral agreement with any political party or group in Balochistan nor any political understanding reached.

About the economic reforms announced by the caretaker government, Bhutto said these steps were needed. She, however, added that the government should have left this job for the elected government. She said the time was not appropriate to impose agricultural tax and that instead farmers should have been given more facilities. The PPP cochairperson said that if elected to power, her government will take a fresh look at these reforms, especially those aspects that burden the common man.

On privatization, Benazir Bhutto said her party believes in wider partnership between the private and public sectors.

Qureshi: 'Enemy Agents' Creating 'Chaos'

BK2408130693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, has expressed the firm determination of his government to arrest and give exemplary punishment to the criminals involved in the murder of four innocent persons in Islamabad yesterday. He was talking to newsmen after visiting the site of the heinous crime this morning. He said the government would take steps to protect the life of the people all over the country. The government is using all the resources at its disposal to apprehend them. He said these elements wanted to create chaos in the country in order to overturn the steps the caretaker government has taken for the improvement of the economy and betterment of the people.

The prime minister said they had information that certain enemy agents were entering the country to create lawlessness. He said that the entire machinery of the government had been activated to foil the designs of such elements. Later, inaugurating the National Library of Pakistan, the prime minister emphasized the need for striving to bring a new dimension in reading and research, leading to creative activities for both the spiritual and material well-being of our people. He said libraries were the fortress against ignorance and cynicism in an intellectually starved society like Pakistan.

'Sources' Reaffirm Moral, Political Support for Kashmiris

BK2408054593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Pakistan has reaffirmed its desire for a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions and spirit of the Simla Agreement. Foreign Office sources also reaffirmed Pakistan's moral and political support for the Kashmiri people's struggle and said the people in occupied Kashmir had launched their movement because of the persistent Indian denial of their right to self-determination. The sources added that the Kashmiri people's freedom movement is continuing despite Indian troop brutalities. These sources asked the international community to take notice of the grave human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. They also asked India to fulfill its pledge to hold a free and fair plebisicite.

PIF Chief Announces Election Manifesto

BK2308064593 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 21 Aug 93 p 12

[By Almas Khan]

[Text] Lahore—Chief of Pakistan Islamic Front—[PIF] Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad, has announced 29 point election manifesto.

Addressing a Press conference Friday afternoon Qazi Hussain Ahmed said that the only responsibility of the present caretaker govt [government] was just to conduct free and fair elections in the country and should better concentrate only on this matter rather than mingling in the basic affairs of the country till the new government takes over.

He said the caretaker government cannot eliminate corruption from the country with the present corrupt administration rather it will add to the already existing problems in the country.

He said levying the agricultural tax was a wrong decision and instead income tax should be imposed upon all the profit earning organisations. To a question Qazi said that if Mian Nawaz Sharif wanted an alliance with the PIF, he would have to confess before the nation that he was not faithful in introducing the Islamic system in the country during his tenure. His govt made a mistake by challenging the interest-free Islamic system in the Federal Shariat Court, he added. He also disclosed that an accord of political co-operation has been made between his party and United Religious Front and the negotiations are underway with Islamic Democratic Front and some other parties. The main points of the manifesto of PIF are as under.

Pakistan would be converted into a true Islamic democratic and welfare state; the system of the equal distribution of the wealth should be implemented; farmers should be given interest free loans; lands should be distributed among landless [word indistinct]; new system of revenue record should be adopted which would be more effective and scientific; steps should be taken for welfare of the workers and their families; present income tax system should be abolished and the fixed tax system should be introduced; all the rights of the women should be restored and secured; relations with the minorities would be bettered; educational budget should be given

considerable importance; the volume of Pakistan defence forces should be increased; diplomatic relations with China and south Asian countries would be strengthened, etc.

Election Group Approves Conduct Code for Political Parties

BK2208144493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] The Election Commission has approved the code of conduct for political parties for the coming general elections. A meeting of the Election Commission in Islamabad today finanlized the code of conduct in the light of discussions held with the representatives of political parties. The chief election commissioner, Mr. Justice Retired Nayimuddin, presided over the meeting.

Under the code of conduct, the political parties shall not propagate any opinion or act in any manner prejudicial to the ideology of Pakistan or the sovereignty, integrity, or security of the country nor subvert the maintenance of public order. They will also refrain from defaming or ridiculing the judiciary or the Armed Forces. Political parties will ensure that their workers do not obstruct or break up meetings organized by rival parties and candidates nor interrupt speeches or prevent distribution of handbills or leaflets and pasting of posters of other parties and candidates.

The code of conduct makes it mandatory for political parties to avoid criticism of other political parties, their leaders, and candidates, having no bearing on their public activities. Criticism and comments shall be confined to policies and programs of other parties. Dignity, decency, decorum and morality will be maintained in speeches and slogans. Deliberate dissemination of false or malicious information or disinformation to defame other political parties and their leaders has been strictly forbidden under the code of conduct. No leader or candidate of a political party shall call the leader or candidate of another party cafir [infidel] or traitor. The code of conduct requires political parties to refrain from speeches calculated to arouse parochial and sectarian feelings. Political parties shall not propagate against the participation of any person in the election on the basis of sex. They will also not incite their workers to violence during meetings or procession on the polling date itself.

Carrying lethal weapons or firearms in public meetings and processions has been strictly forbidden under the code of conduct. It also calls upon political parties and their candidates to extend cooperation to the officers on election duty to ensure peaceful polling and complete freedom for the voters to exercise their right of franchise. Political parties and their candidates shall avoid all activities defined as corrupt and offensive under the election law. They shall not indulge in offering gifts or gratification or inducing another to stand or not to stand as a candidate or to withdraw or not to withdraw his candidature. The code of conduct disallows the procuring of support or assistance of any civil servant to promote or hinder the election of a candidate. Political parties will ensure the sanctity of the ballot. The code of conduct prohibits political parties and their candidates from holding public meetings or rallies on main streets, roads, and chowks [junctions] in order to avoid traffic jams and public inconvenience.

Sharif's Brother Denies Involvement in Drug Trafficking

BK2208102993 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 20 Aug 93 p 8

[Text] Lahore—Mian Shahbaz Sherif, the younger brother of former prime minister, Mian Nawaz Sharif, has dispelled the impression that he or his brother-in-law was involved in the drug business.

"We are three brothers i.e. Nawaz Sharif, Abbas Sharif and myself. We have just one sister whose husbands's name is Yousef, Sohail Zia Butt is not out brother-in-law. If someone wants to know whether he is involved in drug business, he should put this question to him (Sohail). We have nothing to do with the drug business' reacted Shahbaz.

During a chat with newsmen at a local hotel where he had invited senior journalists over a cup of tea, Mian Shahbaz Sharif appealed to the journalists not to affiliate them with any political party. 'Reporters should do their work honestly. Since elections are reaching nearer, certain political parties will try to malign opponents in certain cases. The press should not become a party into it', he added.

Mian Shahbaz Sharif who appeared to be irritated on the question of a reporter about the report of CIA on drug smuggling said. 'We have never asked Bhutto who is Murtaza. We will never ask her, despite knowing that Murtaza Bhutto used to be the mastermind of terrorism in Pakistan'.

Talking about the objective of inviting the newsmen at a cup of tea he said, 'I want to hear complaints of the journalists. If journalists are not happy with us they should say it to enable us to redress their grievances'.

However, none of the journalists bothered to lodge any complaint. Mian Shahbaz Sherif talked at length about the conduct of his brother during his last days in power as he repeatedly said "nobody including the army had pressured my brother to dissolve the assembly. Since I was very much involved in the game, I can say with authority that Nawaz Sharif had volunteered to quit because the former president Ghulam Ishaq was not ready to see Pakistan as a prosperous state. The whole nation was demanding removal of Ghulam Ishaq Khan but the man was clinging to power".

To a question, he said, "the army jumped in when 'Mian Nawaz Sehrif had made up his mind to dissolve the assembly. The presence of the army was necessary at the time because the gap between the president and the

prime minister had increased and their was a need to bring such person who could ensure the fulfillment of the commitments. "And the army was the right institution for doing this job", he added.

To a question, he said that Bhutto and her mother had unnecessarily issued statements against Nawaz Sharif after the murder of Zafar, a candidate of PPP [Pakistan People's Party]. "Now things have cleared and the law, enforcing agencies have exonerated my brother", Shahbaz remarked.

Mian Shahbaz Sharif said that his party would oppose the postponement of elections. He said the fake indentity cards should be cancelled to ensure holding of fair and free elections.

Sri Lanka

President Promotes Junior Ministers Into Cabinet

BK2308134493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1317 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Colombo, Aug 23 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Dingiri Banda Wijetunge promoted two junior ministers into the cabinet Monday, while retaining the key posts of finance and defence @or himself.

State minister for science and technology Paul Perera was promoted full minister in charge of lands while foreign affairs deputy John Amaratunge was given the cabinet post of home affairs.

President: Growth Rate Averaging 5 Percent Annually

BK2208120493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] President D.B. Wijetunge has said government's economic policies have taken Sri Lanka's per capita income over $550 mark with people being strengthened qualitatively and quantitatively. He was inaugurating the South Asian Regional Conference of the Society for International Development last week in Colombo. Mr. Wijetunge said economic policies of the government were aimed at achieving two main objectives of stabilizing the economy and moving on to a sustained growth path. He said starting with a growth rate of 2.3 percent in 1989, Sri Lanka now averages 5 percent annually. The inflation rate which was 22 percent in 1990 had now been brought down to 12 percent and industrial growth had surged to 11 percent.

Lack of Security Seen Promoting Crimes Against Tamils

BK2308141993 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 10 Aug 93 p 2

[Editorial: "An Affront to the Country"]

[Text] The fallacy of extending the state of emergency in the country has continued due to a failure to control the ongoing disturbances and disorders. The security forces have always been kept on red alert. In spite of this, there is no decrease in the incidence of robberies, murders, extortion, and violence that is taking place in the country. The people are not in a position to move about freely. One can observe that only the Tamil-speaking people are the targets of such robberies and extortion. Some antisocial elements are exploiting the current situation against the Tamil- speaking people who are living in pathetic conditions. These antisocial elements intimidate the Tamils, subject them to malicious behavior, and steal their belongings.

In the train robbery incident which occurred on Saturday [7 August] night, innocent passengers, including two Irish nationals, lost their jewelry, cash, and other valuables to the 'train-robbers.' The passengers in the sleeper coaches of the Vavuniya-bound train orginating from Colombo Fort on Saturday night were robbed of about 300,000 rupees worth of jewelry and cash. The robbers knocked at the doors of the coaches saying that they wanted to check the police identity cards of the passengers. Then they accomplished their mission by gagging and tying the hands of the passengers once the doors were opened.

The train robberies in this country have a long historic background. In the past, there have been frequent robberies on board the Yal Devi train mostly in the areas adjacent to Kurunagale. Nevertheless, so far there is nothing on record to prove that the railway authorities or the security agencies did anything to prevent such incidents.

The performance of the Railway Department has deteriorated to such an extent that it makes a common man ask whether any of the measures undertaken by the department for passenger safety has been effective or not. The northern people, who, amid several hardships, stake their lives and undertake travel to meet their bare necessities, fall victim to the robbers from the capital, Colombo. It is quite unfortunate that awful conditions, which can be compared to a situation wherein a person who fell from a tree was trampled by a bull, continue.

Robbery gangs are operating in such a way that the system of national identity cards has been maligned and the security department workers have been slighted. The increase in the number of illegal weapons is the root cause for such robberies.

As far as the capital is concerned, soldiers are conducting house-to-house searches and are arresting and interrogating several Tamil youths on suspicion. As such steps are based on suspicion of the Tamil people, the real culprits go scot free. Generally, when there is a bomb blast in any part of the country, all people view the Tamils with suspicion. But the bomb blast at the old Kathiresan Temple in Bambalapity has clearly divulged the source of the bombs.

The government should take extensive measures to prevent such antisocial activities in the country. The authorities concerned should realize that the antisocial activities, which have been on the increase in the recent past, not only pose a challenge to the Armed Forces, but have become an affront to the country itself.

In the world there are many violence-ridden cities full of hooligans and robbers. Colombo should not go the way Chicago and Hong Kong, where law and order are completely ignored. To ensure this, it is essential to take necessary measures to maintain order and keep an eye on urban violence while taking appropriate steps for the security of the country.

Tamil Leader: LTTE 'Worst' Human Rights Violators

BK2208120293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Leader of the Democratic People's Liberation Front—DPLF—Dharmalingam Siddharthan has said in Geneva that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] are the worst violators of human rights in the north and east. He was addressing the UN High Commission on Human Rights Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities Working Group meeting. Mr. Siddharthan, the only Tamil political party leader to speak at this meeting, added that the LTTE enjoyed power without responsibilities and consent of the people in the north and east of Sri Lanka. Mr. Siddharthan said that the LTTE tolerated no dissent. The print and the broadcast media in the areas under its control are tightly regulated. The LTTE has been known to execute those who criticized it or disagreed publicly with its policies. In the past, university professors, members and leaders of Tamil parties, and human rights monitors were among those killed. He added the LTTE holds numerous prisoners of conscience, including several intellectuals. It has been been ascertained on the basis of accounts given by prisoners who have been released or who have escaped from the LTTE's detention camps in the north that there are approximately 4,000 persons in these prisons. With the exception of the security forces personnel held since 1990, the LTTE does not give the International Committee of Red Cross or other humanitarian organizations access to its detainees.

Draft UN Resolution on LTTE Withdrawn

BK2108112093 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry yesterday said the draft resolution on the situation in Sri Lanka, which had been submitted to the UN subcommission on the prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities now in session in Geneva, has been withdrawn. The draft resolution while condemning the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] for summary and arbitrary execution of non-combatant civilians, torture, abduction and arbitrary detention, also advises the Sri Lankan Government and other parties to the conflict to seek a cessation of hostilities and obtain the assistance of the UN secretary general in mediation.

Last week, Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed summoned the heads of mission of countries, whose nationals were experts on the UN subcommission, to the Colombo Foreign office and briefed them on action taken by the government. Minister Hameed had at the same time expressed concern over the actions proposed in the subcommission. The Lankan missions abroad were also instructed to brief the governments of the countries to which were accredited about this resolution.

Europe, India Urged Not To Deport Tamil Refugees

BK2008141993 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 12 Aug 93 p 2

[Editorial: "The Condition of Refugees"]

[Text] Innocent people began leaving their homes whenever military action was carried out in the northeastern region. Among such displaced persons, one group went to India while another—affluent people—went to the Western countries. The rest of the people have taken asylum in local refugee camps and have been living there.

People who believed that the conditions in the country would improve within a short period—that they could return home and live peacefully thereafter—face only disappointment. Day by day, however, more and more innocent people are becoming refugees. At the same time, Muslims from the north have forsaken their property and comforts and have been living in the Puttalam and Karapiti refugee camps. Today, most Tamil-speaking people are living as refugees in some way or other. All the refugee camps set up for them look like cattle sheds. The innocent refugees there have to struggle for their basic amenities and bare necessities. Meanwhile, steps taken to rehabilitate Tamil-speaking people who have been in refugee camps for a long time have not totally succeeded. They return frustrated to the refugee camps because they cannot live safely on their own soil.

Due to military actions launched in the past under similar circumstances, thousands of people from the northern and eastern coasts have fled to Tamil Nadu. The late M.G. Ramachandran, then Tamil Nadu chief minister, and his successor, M. Karunanidhi, provided continuous and adequate facilities to the Tamil refugees and thus gave them solace. Meanwhile, the death of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the change of government in Tamil Nadu left the refugees in the lurch. Thousands of Tamil refugees have been sent back with bag and baggage to their motherland. Steps are also being taken to send back the rest of the refugees.

Whenever the Sri Lankan Government argued that the ethnic crisis was an internal problem, the refugee issue

was used as a tool to overrule it. The same refugee issue, however, has now lost its significance. Since India started sending back Tamil refugees, European countries have also adopted a tough stance on the refugee issue. They have refused refugee status to those who seeking it and have tried to send them back to Sri Lanka. Tamil refugees in Europe were very much worried about this. There is a perceptible change in their attitude now, however. European countries such as the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Germany, and France consider the Sri Lankan Tamil refugee issue an internal matter. Now the Swiss Government has decided not to send back the Tamil refugees. Let us believe that this will be an example to other countries.

In the meantime, the American human rights organization Asia Watch has appealed to India to halt its efforts to send back the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees. Whatever the case, we would like to reiterate that it is a humanitarian obligation on the part of all sides to let the refugees live in peace and not subject them to further hardships.

Japan To Invest in Deluxe Apartment Venture

BK2408113693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Japan Asia Investment Company Limited, JAIC, will construct a deluxe apartment complex in Colombo. A spokesman for the Board of Investment [BOI] told LANKAPUVATH that the total investment in the project is estimated at $52.9 million, representing a landmark in Japanese investment in Sri Lanka. It is a 100 percent Japanese venture and is expected to be completed by the end of 1995. The spokesman added that this is a second foreign project to obtain a flagship company status in Sri Lanka. The 34- story high-rise apartment complex will be similar to the luxury buildings found in Tokyo. JAIC Lanka Limited has now emerged as the largest Japanese venture approved by the BOI in Sri Lanka.